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Pacquiao to face ex-lover, son in QC court today

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More intriguing questions over Milosevic's death

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Senate debate on martial law lifting sends Jamby crying

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Bulacan folk seek stop to quarrying at Biak-na-Bato nat'l park

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, March 14, 2006 ★★ Vol. 21 / No. 96 website: www.inq7.net

Bunye leaves it to AFP to file case vs Inquirer

By Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Dustin L. Lucas and Alcuin Papa

IT'S UP TO THE MILITARY IF IT WANTS TO PUSH ahead and file a case against the issuers for publishing a series of articles on the events leading up to the aborted military coup on Feb. 24, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"We leave it to the parties involved," Bunye said when asked if the Palace was assuming a

(COPYRIGHT) A2

Warrantless arrest? Cops learn how from Miriam

By Luige A. del Puerta

POLICEMEN DO NOT need a warrant of arrest if they catch [someone] in flagrante delicto, according to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago in her instruct to cops on how to

(CONTINUED) A2

Lawyers warn GMA on abuse of power

By TJ Burgonio

WHILE SHE HAD LIFTED IT, President Macapagal-Arroyo cannot escape culpability for "arbitrary acts" carried out by the military and police during the week-long state of national emergency she had declared.

The head of the lawyers' Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) yesterday expressed this view to the Senate inquiry into the warrantless arrest of protesters, a party-list lawmaker and perceived critics of the President, as well as the ban on rallies.

Maria Socorro I. Diokno, FLAG secretary general, pointed out that after issuing Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, the Arroyo administration came out with General Orders No. 5 and No. 6 under the "clear instruction and directives" of the President.

GO 5 directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines to maintain the peace and public order and suppress lawless violence, while the less publicized GO 6 directed the AFP to coordinate with the national police.

"Everything that has been done as a result of Proclamation No. 1017, General Order No. 5, General Order No. 6 were with the knowledge, consent, directives and instruction of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Diokno said.

"And, therefore, she can't escape culpability for any wrongdoing that may have happened as a result of these directives," she added.

Appearing at the same hearing, retired Supreme Court Justice Vicente Mendoza said the President could be held liable if the evidence would show that she had authorized these "arbitrary acts."

"If it's proven in court that she authorized these, when there's no declaration of martial law or suspension of the privilege [of the writ of habeas corpus], I would think that these are arbitrary acts.

LAWYERS, A4

Army builds special jail for coup plotters

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo hands over a P1-million check to Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon during ceremonies for the Kawal Kalinga housing project in Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. Looking on is Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

But Church groups offering safe haven

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE THE ARMY IS building maximum security cells for destabilizers, the country's Roman Catholic priests and nuns are opening their convents to what one priest called "victims of political repression."

The double-walled, barbed-wired military compound was originally the former detention facility for ousted President Joseph Estrada in Tanay, Rizal.

It is located inside Camp Capinpin, the headquarters of the Army 2nd Infantry Division, and has three rooms, Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said.

Laborers watched over by soldiers are completing its construction at a time when the military is cracking down on officers and soldiers allegedly involved in the plot to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The facility lies across the highway from Estrada's residence, to where the ex-President was moved last year and where he has since been staying under "house arrest" while on trial for plunder.

Reporters who visited Camp Capinpin on Saturday were barred from peeking into the compound.

Double concrete walls topped by barbed wire surround the detention cells. Between the two walls is a pathway for patrolling guards. Guard posts and watch towers with huge searchlights have been installed.

"If we're going to detain anyone there, we're really going to be serious about jailing them. We're building a jail for those who deserve to be jailed," Esperon told reporters.

"When you are inside that detention cell you are the most secured individual," he said.

Asked if destabilizers were among the persons to be held there, Esperon said: "Kanarin na, hoo! yong (They are included because) destabilization is also a violation of the Articles of War. So

ARMY, A4

Senga: I was in control during coup try

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza

GEN. GENEROSO SENGA YESterday dismissed suggestions that he was not in control when elite military units challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying the major service commanders were simply following his orders as Armed Forces chief of staff.

Senga sent a statement to the Inquirer reacting to its report that Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's preemptive moves stopped Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the First Scout Brigade, and Col. Ariel Querubin, commander of the First Marine Brigade based in Marikina City, from withdrawing support from Ms Arroyo.

Senga said Esperon, Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga and Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes were following his instructions during the critical hours on Feb. 24 when Lim's alleged effort to break away from the President was aborted.

"They were all part of our coordinated actions ... We were all together until the early morning of Feb. 24," he said. In a text message to the Inquirer, he added: "I'm not claiming any credit, just clarifying."

But Sen. Joker Arroyo said the series of reports published by the Inquirer on the Feb. 24 coup attempt showed that the political opposition had become irrelevant and that the consequential decisions regarding the fate of the country during the crisis were made by generals.

Arroyo said that when the country's political crisis were-

SENGA, A4

Cops present hooded witness vs Batasan 5

MILITANT party-list lawmakers (from left) Joel Virador, Teddy Casiño, Liza Maza, Satur Ocampo and Rafael Mariano welcome with a protest the scheduled preliminary investigation of rebellion charges against them.

By Armand N. Nocum

POLICE YESTERDAY PRODUCED a hooded witness complete with a bullet-proof vest in a bid to pin down six party-list congressmen facing rebellion charges for allegedly plotting to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Claiming to be a unionized cadre, Jaime B. Fuentes said he was able to witness meetings supposedly attended by the six lawmakers to topple the Arroyo administration on Feb. 24.

"If the [plan] fails, we will still push through with our operation plan to oust [the President] in 100 days, the deadline of which falls on May 1, 2006," he said in

COPS, A4

WEARING a hood and a bullet-proof vest, police witness Jaime Beltran Fuentes appears at the Department of Justice.

House probe of CD on 'break-in' urged

By Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER THE AUDIO TAPE COMES THE VIDEO CD controversy.

A compact disc shown to the Inquirer last week contained footage of an alleged break-in at the South Wing of the Batasan complex in Quezon City where ballot boxes full of election returns of the 2004 national elections were kept, the Inquirer reported Monday.

Reacting to the report, the opposition in the House of Representatives yesterday called for an investigation of the switching of ballots.

"This is a confirmation of what we were saying during the impeachment proceedings that there was a break-in and switching of the ballot boxes containing election documents (that may provide the basis for the election protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro)," said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero of Sorsogon.

Malacañang dismissed the CD of the alleged break-in as another "ploy" by destabilizers.

"This is a never-ending attempt to reexcitate the electoral fraud issue. They want to keep this alive in the minds of the public. But they have failed since two elections," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing.

Allies of Ms Arroyo in the House quashed in September last year an impeachment com-

HOUSE, A4

Price tag: P200M, P30M, P3M, ...

By Gerry Lirio

HOW MUCH IS THIS HOT COMPACT disc worth?

The price of the CD containing footage of an alleged break-in at a room in the House of Representatives where the ballot boxes used in the 2004 presidential election were stored was initially set at P200 million, according to several opposition leaders.

The CD showed six House civilian employees allegedly stealing election returns from a room at the House's South Wing between January 2005 and February 2006. The election returns were from 38 provinces.

After they realized that they had a good score in mid-2005, House security officers who were involved in the break-in either played or peddled the CD to several opposition leaders, including Senators Panfilo Lacson and Rodolfo Biazon, former Sen. Loren Legarda, Bayan Rep. Teodoro Zarate, Lacson's former

PRICE, A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Second FRONTPAGE

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

Senate debate sends Jamby crying

By TJ Burgonio

AN OTHERWISE ORDINARY SESSION AT THE Senate yesterday afternoon turned into high drama when Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile engaged Sen. Jamby Madrigal in an emotionally charged debate over the reasons behind the lifting of martial law.

In the end, Madrigal, later by Enrile's insinuation that her family had partied with the Marcoses in Malacañang during martial law, broke down in tears and walked out of the session hall, prompting the suspension of the proceedings.

She returned shortly afterwards and, at her request, Senate President Franklin Drilon announced the session.

"There's never a dull moment in the Senate," a senator was heard saying.

The tender began when, at the start of the session, Madrigal rose to ask that Enrile's extension of her privilege speech last week, in which she said martial law was lifted in 1981 to clear the way for the visit of Pope John Paul II, be stricken off the record.

Enrile stood up and objected to this, pointing out that her motion was based on opinions and summary.

Madrigal, in a privilege speech last week, said that then President Ferdinand Marcos lifted martial law on Jan. 17, 1981 "to make possible the visit of Pope John Paul II." Enrile called her "verbose" and a "purveyor of falsehood."

ENROLL: Former senator Ino

EDSA: Jamby Madrigal is comforted by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago after a rift with Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile Monday. Enrile said the Madrigals partied with the Marcoses during the Martial Law years. (STAR GRAPHICS)

In his manifestation, Madrigal struck back at Enrile, saying he himself had confirmed during the February 1986 People Power revolt that the ambush against him on Sept. 22, 1972 was a pretext for the declaration of martial law.

This riled Enrile, who insisted that he did not take the ambush in "[with] martial law" and went as far as to say that Antonio and Amanda Madrigal—the senator's parents—partied with the Marcoses during martial law.

"They were partying with the Marcoses, including my uncle, the husband of her aunt, Gina Madrigal. I would like to know if she's related to these people," he said.

At this point, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago stood to remind the chamber that there was a pending motion and proposed that this should be "put on the table," but Enrile pressed on with his privilege speech as Madrigal's mother.

Madrigal then stood up to say she would not debate with Enrile to dignify his "unsalted lies" remarks and broke down.

"I get emotional, Mr. President, because his bullying carries being down to me today me being down to us by the President of the Philippines and it is not nice to commissioners like in the Senate," she said.

Ms. President, because his bullying carries being down to me today me being down to us by the President of the Philippines and it is not nice to commissioners like in the Senate," she said.

Inquirer, newspaper dealers forge deal

A PLANNED BOYCOTT OF the Inquirer by a group of newspaper dealers was averted yesterday.

"The situation is back to normal. The dealers have agreed to dialogue with us to improve the distribution program," said Nene Quisumbing, Inquirer senior vice president for sales and marketing.

Days after it had called for a boycott, the Nitsa Manila Dealers Organization of the Philippines (PMDO) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Inquirer and agreed to continue to dialogue with the paper.

"We've agreed to first resume the concerns of the (Manila) dealers," Inquirer Pub CEO chair Danny Jose in a phone interview.

As part of the memorandum of understanding, the issues will temporarily suspend the sell-out of the "strike zone"—distribution points in Metro Manila, Bulacan said.

He said the system would remain to allow Inquirers in Central Luzon where it has been in operation for two months.

The cut-backs were intended to give dealers "increased integrity" and prevent other dealers from encroaching on areas designated for others, and in the end serve no one, not better business said.

He added the talks with the newspaper dealers would continue, while the implementation of the new system would take effect gradually. BJ Rap

Suspected NPA rebel killed in Batangas clash

By Marlon Ramos
With Jonathan Lazon Herrera

CALAMBA CITY – AN ALLEGED member of the New People's Army was killed when a group of suspected communist rebels drove past a checkpoint set up by the Philippine Air Force in Sta. Rosa-tere reality yesterday and chose to shoot it out with pursuing soldiers, the military reported.

Lt. Col. Ruben Carandang, commander of the 730th Combat Group of 9th Brigade in Nangka town, identified the slain rebel as Crispin "Ka Charlie" Bercijo Katigbak, 51, a resident of Rilis St., Sta. Rosa.

He said Katigbak was the driver of a dark blue sedan with five people aboard that refused to stop at a military roadblock in Barangay Pansol at around 1:00 a.m., triggering a running gunbattle that lasted for nearly an hour.

The rebels left their bullet-riddled car several kilometers away from the checkpoint and fled on foot toward nearby mountains, Carandang said. Katigbak was found dead, slumped in the wheel with several gunshot wounds.

No one was hurt among the soldiers, Carandang said.

Carandang said the soldiers had encountered the same group of rebels while they were supposedly extorting money from hotel residents and businessmen some 30 minutes before the shootout. He said the rebels fired on the soldiers, who then set up the roadblock with the help of barangay officials.

During a follow-up operation, the military recovered several firearms including a 9mm rifle, three M16 rifles, an AR15 rifle, 10 fully-loaded M16 magazines, a Cal45 magazine. Also recovered were documents which an Air Force spokesman in Manila said confirmed the "unholy alliance" between Lebias and Ngilore groups trying to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It appears that is what is indicated in the documents. But these are still being analyzed further," Lt. Col. Bartolito Padilla told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Meanwhile, the exiled leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines stood accused yesterday in last month's alleged coup attempt, but called for stepped-up attacks on government forces.

In a statement from The Netherlands, Jose Maria Sison said he never endorsed "the coup-makers' coup attempt or coup conspiracy" although he backed a popular uprising and the military's withdrawal of support for Ms Arroyo. With reports from Nikko Dizon and AFP

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Atty. Gilbert T. Reyes is known as an authority in the field of Intellectual Property Law. He has led many IP enforcement initiatives for clients including BPC, Intel, Levis and other global firms. He is a Senior Partner & Head of Intellectual Property Department of the Poblador Bautista & Reyes Law Offices. He graduated Magna Cum Laude, from the U.P. College of Law in 1983.

Atty. Janine G. Hoffena is a Senior Partner at the Poblador Bautista & Reyes Law Offices. He has had foreign training (in Tokyo, Japan) in Intellectual Property Rights and has accumulated years of experience in Intellectual Property Litigations and enforcement. He is class salutatorian of U.P. College of Law Batch '99.

Atty. Brigitte de Costa-Villaluz has nine years of solid experience in handling trademarks, patent registrations, and intellectual property rights enforcement. She has extensive exposure in IP infringement, unfair competition cases, and opposition of trademark registrations. She is a senior associate at the Poblador Bautista & Reyes Law Offices. She graduated 3rd honors with a Juris Doctor degree from the Ateneo Law School in 1996.

Atty. Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr. is the director general of the Intellectual Property Office. He was formerly DTI Undersecretary for Consumer Welfare and Trade regulation. He is a guest resource speaker in this program.

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Members of the non-exempt bar for the first compliance period of the MCLE are now being sent out by the MCLE committee.

The deadline for the second compliance period of the MCLE is fast approaching.

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☐ Mar. 18 p.m.	3 Litigation in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: SPC and Corporate Governance 3 Legal Ethics and Practical Skills	Justice Antonio M. Martinez Atty. Jose Jesus M. Disini, Jr.
☐ Mar. 25 a.m.	3 Civil Procedures Supplem. Technology and the Law 3 Legal Ethics	Justice Antonio M. Martinez Atty. Jose Jesus M. Disini, Jr.
☐ Mar. 25 p.m.	3 Litigation in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: Constitutional Law 3 Alternative Dispute Resolution	Justice Artemio V. Panganiban Dean Cynthia D. Rollada
☐ Apr. 01 a.m.	3 Alternative Dispute Resolution 3 Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Justice Florenz D. Regalado Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
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☐ Apr. 08 a.m.	3 Litigation in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: Notarial Law 3 MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Remedial Law Forensic Evidence: Direct and Re-Examin	Justice Artemio V. Panganiban Justice Antonio T. Carpio Atty. Raquel San Pascual-Audiencio
☐ Apr. 08 p.m.	3 Legal Ethics 3 Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy 3 Litigation in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: Criminal Law	Justice Renato C. Corona Justice Ruben T. Reyes Justice Diosdado M. Peralta

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Australia to give 30 river boats

AUSTRALIA WILL DONATE 30 RIVER boats to help the Philippine military pursue Abu Sayyaf bombing suspects who are alleged to have set up Islamic militant training camps in Mindanao, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said yesterday.

The Bal Bayhan would allow the insertion of troops to go after Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) militants in marshlands in southern Mindanao.

The boats would help Filipino troops "get to the terrorists who may have hideouts in those marshlands," Cruz told the Foreign Correspondents Association in Manila.

Canberra would procure the watercraft within three months under a bilateral agreement it signed with Manila, he added.

The planned donation was announced amid fears among Western security agencies that JI militants blamed for the two bombings on the Indonesian resort of Bali that killed more than 200 people, many of them tourists, have fled to the mountainous regions of southern Philippines.

They alleged that the militants had been given shelter and training facilities by Muslim separatists waging a decades-old insurgency in the South.

"The Jemaah Islamiyah threat is not a serious one at this point," Cruz said.

However, "it has the potential to become a serious threat," AFP

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Cops present hooded witness vs Batasan 5

From page A1

an affidavit in Filipino presented during the preliminary investigation of the arrested at the Department of Justice.

Defense lawyers quickly branded Fuentes as "a professional witness" trained by police to fabricate stories against their enemies.

One of the arrested lawmakers, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, scored a partial victory elsewhere yesterday when a Quezon City court ordered his release on the grounds he was immune from lawsuits as a member of Congress.

Judge Evangeline Manglapus granted a motion for Beltran's release at a hearing of inciting to sedition charges against him.

Police said they could not yet release Beltran because he was still facing rebellion charges before a Makati City court.

Identity must be secret

The other lawmakers charged with Beltran were Rafid Matabay and Gregin Bebsan of Sandiganbayan Rep. Teodoro Casiño and Joel Mendoz of Bayan Muna and Liza Maza of Gabriela.

None of them attended the DOJ hearing. They had insisted the preliminary investigation be held in Camp Crame, which had given them protective custody.

Fuentes gave no verbal account to prosecutors and reporters but he departed only on his affidavit. His appearance at the hearing was brief. Soon after he arrived, he left surrounded by security, he was taken away by his escorts.

Fuentes claimed in his the "chief security officer" of ex-accused Victorio Ludlad of Bayan Muna.

When he testified, Fuentes had a brown shirt over his face and a moment has pleaded over his head to hold the shirt in place. He refused to remove the hood.

His lawyer, Confesor Jimenez, said his client's identity must be kept hidden for now for Fuentes' "personal security."

In his affidavit, Fuentes claimed to have been recruited by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army to Darius in 1982 and that he became a regular member in 1987.

Man of many aliases

In the communist world, he said he went by the alias "Ka Ben, Ka Boge and Ka Arnie."

Fuentes said he met Beltran once or twice at Ludlad when the latter was the alleged head of the CPP's Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee.

Fuentes said it was his ties with Ludlad that gave him the chance to mingle with the six congressmen in meetings held between January and February at various offices, such as the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan's national office, the Gabriela Shg-Isabelaid ng Pilipinas' national office and Bayan Muna's national office in Kamuning, Quezon City.

In his narration, he dragged in other names.

"I witnessed two secret meetings between Vic Ladlad in November 2005 with the group Black and White Movement Among those I met in the meetings are Gladys Liberato and Ricky Wilson," he said.

Soliman is Mr Arroyo's former social welfare secretary who quit when Calderon and called on the President to also step down in the wake of allegation that she cheated in the 2004 presidential election.

Attacking Malacañang

"It was in those meetings that all agreed that there should be a broad alliance under the CPP-NPA to topple the Arroyo government," Fuentes said.

He claimed that it was agreed upon that the party-list lawmakers' "counterpoints development funds" would be used for the leftist cause.

He drew a colorful picture of what the 9th, 20 plot would have been like.

According to his claim, the "communist" leaders in Congress and leftist groups, as well as the rightist "Hamakpanyog Bawal Pilipino" group would raise to Makati City Lieutenant Senthoni and Gen Oscar Rocos Abendañal Bridge.

There, if they drew the desired number of people, armed members of the CPP-NPA and the AFP would "attack the Palace until they toppled the Arroyo government," he said.

Military aide

Fuentes said he left the group after some of his colleagues suspected him of being a military mole and started to plot his liquidation.

Ludlad's counsel, Free Legal Assistance Group's Jose Manuel L. Diokno, described Fuentes as a "notorious liar and witness."

"The conspiracy he is claiming dates back to 20 years. There should come a time when the government should stop prosecuting people for the same crime over and again," Diokno said.

During the hearing, defense lawyer Jul by Romeo Capulong sought police assurance of their client' library while the rebellion cases were pending before the DOJ.

Lawyer Magdlet Bebbie, who represented the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said they were willing to honor the House leadership's custody of the lawmakers, for now.

Separate battle

"I believe they are under protective custody. We need not offer their arrest since they are under custodial investigation," Bebbie said.

Fighting a separate battle, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel yesterday slapped criminal and administrative charges against the police for hauling her off in a police van during the rough dispersal of a protest rally outside the International Women's Day last week.

Baraquel filed the charges in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, the Commission on Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsman.

The party-list lawmaker named PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao, Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol, Quezon City police chief Ricardo Barleson Jr. and other Quezon City policemen of arbitrary detention and violation of the illegal assembly act and parliamentary immunity.

Also named in the complaint were Superintendent Elmo San Diego and Senior Widely, 1931 Kachiwan Pineda, PO2 Julius Tarin and SPO2 Nonoy Lacsamana.

Schedule changed

The five militant lawmakers under House custody said they attended attending their preliminary investigation despite a decision to change the preliminary investigation from the DOJ to the House premises because they had not been properly informed of the change in schedule.

The hearing had been set for 2 p.m. at the House but at the last minute, the DOJ moved it to 10 a.m., by which time the former 5 were attending a Mass.

The prosecutors later were ahead with the 2 p.m. hearing but this time held it at the DOJ.

Cadiz said his office only received word of the change 20 minutes before the new time of the proceedings.

The next preliminary investigation has been set for March 20.

With reports from Lutgar B. del Puerto, JU Rio and Norman Bordadora

ANAKPAWIS Rep. Crispin Beltran is surrounded by police after a Quezon City judge ordered his release from PNP custody. RICHARD GUTIERREZ

Warrantless arrest? Cops learn how from Miriam

From page A1

effectively arrest people.

"Where does the [legitimate] delay rule apply? If, for example, you are a policeman ... you are with a woman who is not your wife and your wife passes by [and sees you]—that is not a crime also," said Santiago, who was a guest of honor at the flag-raising ceremony yesterday at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Question: What if this occurred in a hotel room with a gun lying around?

"Then your wife has the right to shoot you," Santiago said as she sneered, mostly straight faces, burst into laughter.

The senator visited Camp Crame once a classroom, teaching cops how, when and where a warrantless arrest or a warrantless search could be applied. She also gave tips on how policemen could defend themselves in the possible charges in court.

Santiago was clearly in a jolly mood, starting off her lecture by reciting jokes and firing barbs against people whom she described as persecuting to be knowledgeable of the law, even when they had "not read a single law book."

"How does one apply warrantless arrest and warrantless search?" she lectured in Filipino.

"Because now, there are [people] pretending to be knowledgeable [of the law]. At least General [Arturo] Lomibao once enrolled in college at least ... But these people pretending to be knowledgeable of the law have not even once read a law book. They are victims of themselves. This is the problem with our country," she said.

"No more, let us study how to arrest them," the senator said, drawing chuckles from the crowd.

Conditions

According to Santiago, the Constitution considers warrantless arrest lawful under three conditions:

- When, in the presence of the police, the person to be arrested has committed, is actually committing, or is attempting to commit an offense, referred to as the in flagrante delicto rule.
- When an offense has just been committed, and the police have probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed it, referred to as the "hot pursuit" arrest rule.
- When the person to be arrested is a prisoner who has escaped from a penal institution.

Under the doctrine of hot pursuit, a cop would not need to actually witness the execution or acts constituting the offense.

"But he must have direct knowledge, or a view of the crime, right after its commission," Santiago explained.

"So if no officer really wants to make an arrest, he can just be a bystander," she said.

And then some

According to Santiago, policemen can also make lawful arrests when:

- They had earlier conducted surveillance of the suspect.
- They hear the disturbance created by the offense.
- There is probable cause of a commercial client.
- There is probable cause of a national security crime.
- The suspect is caught shoplifting and the shoplifter detains him for a reasonable investigation.
- Direct contempt [is] committed in the presence of the court, upon the oral direction of the presiding judge.
- The suspect is caught fleeing while in custody.

Unlawful arrests

According to Santiago, unlawful warrantless arrests are made when they are based on:

- The verbal report of a relative.
- Raw intelligence information.
- Unreliable hearsay information.
- Unreasonable suspicion.

No liability

Question: If a warrantless arrest was made and the court found the suspect innocent or acquitted him, would the arresting officers be liable?

"The answer is no," Santiago said.

The senator said that if an arrest turned out to be unlawful, the court was still capable of assuming jurisdiction over the accused. Any objection to the court's jurisdiction would be waived when the person arrested submitted to an arraignment without any objection.

"The strategy here is if you have doubts about the legality of your arrest, have it immediately arraigned before a judge," she said.

"In an arraignment, the arrested person makes a plea of guilty or not guilty. If he is arraigned and he pleads not guilty—that's the end of the story. The legality of the arrest cannot no longer be dug up," Santiago said.

Her lectures, the host of it flagrante delicto, according to the senator, is that if the suspect is "acting under circumstances reasonably inducing to show that he has committed or is about to commit a crime."

"Evidence of guilt is not necessary. It is enough if there is probable cause," she said.

"Here is what if [the person being arrested] says, 'What you are doing is not right. You have no evidence.' The answer back, 'I have probable cause.' That is the key," Santiago said.

Warrant for sedition

She stressed that under the doctrine of continuing crime, anyone could be arrested any where, anytime.

"You don't need to search him in the act because his crime is a continuing crime," Santiago said, adding one of those crimes is rebellion. Even the Supreme Court said the libel, which is of continuing crime cannot be applied to existing sedition."

"So let us remember ... if the crime is only inviting to sedition, then you need a warrant of arrest," she said.

Senga: I was in control during coup try

From page A1

stand, military officers had apparently "functioned that they are in a position to rule the country." The massive advancement of the military in the past administration was lucky that the military top brass did not smile behind the rebels' plot.

"The administration and the appointees should wake up to the close and present danger of the military assuming and seizing from to the civilian government," Arroyo said.

In position to rule

"The military has become ascendant in the scheme of things. The horseshoes is that while both the majority and minority quarreled, the uniformed members observed that they are in a position to rule the country," the senator said.

"The military gradually positioned themselves in decision already," he said in an interview with the reporters.

"The other factors of the [intelligence] services have supplanted the political opposition as the real opposition group in GMA. The political opposition has become irrelevant in the power equation, splintered, squabbling, with neither the power nor the high ground to unseat the present," he added.

Despairing any law combat assault on his appointees, the Arroyo said yesterday her administration was "determined to clean out residual threats of destabilization with the heaviest arsenal of constitutional measures are sanctioned."

"Gun rangerbanter, continuing gossip with chat with rightist coup plotters and left-wing insurgents and there will no longer be ill and hurt about it," Ms Arroyo said at the inauguration of the Visual Design Training Project in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

Citing threats from a "cabal" of communist guerrillas, rebel soldiers, politicians and businessmen, Ms Arroyo claimed a state of national emergency on Feb. 24. She lifted the emergency rule a week later after the attempt to unseat her had been aborted.

Ms Arroyo had been hounded by allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election and demands that she step aside. The charges, which she has denied, stemmed from revelations in intercepted conversations purportedly between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Sustained clampdown

Speaking for the second straight day on her efforts to bring about political unity, the 58-year-old President said her administration "must sustain the clampdown on underground conspiracies until these are completely mopped up and wiped out."

"The choice is either to keep this nation speechless or in turbulence or to allow it to wallow and fester under intensive care," the President said. "I have made the decision to take the Philippines out of such fray," she said.

In a statement supporting Arroyo's contention, Esperon denied that he was the only one who had opposed Lim's plan. "I must say that this is the farthest from the truth," Esperon told reporters in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, on Sunday.

Esperon said that during the emergency meeting, Senga called between the service commanders and Lim and Querubin on the night of Feb. 23, Ms. Mayuga and Reyes were behind Senga. "We were unopposed and we did not see ruckus in our position than any such unconfirmed understanding must be quelled," Esperon said.

"Likewise, Senga called General Lim and Colonel Querubin before us and we ended the meeting with a warning from the chief of staff that if they insisted on doing what they would do, I understood from what I heard from the chief of staff that we will use force to stop that unauthorized activity," Esperon said.

Transitional government

He recalled Reyes as telling Lim and Querubin after they proposed a takeover of the government that "we are not inclined for that, that is not our constitutional duty."

Esperon also recalled Mayuga asking Lim and Querubin "if they had any companion for young officers or soldiers who will be involved again and in the end will be left to their own."

But Esperon confirmed an Inquirer report on March 10 that Lim and Querubin did propose a "civilian transitional government" during the meeting.

Senga had previously denied an Inquirer report that he considered a proposal to head a military "caretaker government" that would replace the Arroyo administration.

He said this was part of the intelligence leaked at the military leadership to weaken its resolve to stand by the chain of command.

Senga directed measures

Lt. Gen. Ramon Tolentino, chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command, also brushed aside the leaks in a report on Esperon's role, saying Senga had "total command and control" of the preemptive measures that thwarted the Feb. 24 coup.

"That's wrong," Tolentino said of the report.

Maj. Gen. Avelino Palparan, in a separate interview, said he took orders from Tolentino who had territorial command over the 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

"I should know because I received orders directly from General Senga himself. He called me on Feb. 22 to assume the command and to allow the suspected possible activists," Palparan said. He was interviewed by telephone from Fort Magsaysay.

On Feb. 23, Tolentino said that upon Senga's order, he directed Bulacan forces under Palparan to surround Camp Tecson, the base of Lim's Scout Ranger Regiment in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Air Force units alerted

By that time, Malacañan's air force units were also readied to protect its power.

"The bombs were actually loaded," Tolentino said, to prevent the Rangers from leaving camp and forming reinforcements for the soldiers who seized the Peninsula Manila hotel for Nina Fe's 30th anniversary celebration.

"We already knew of the plot by General Lim. Esperon need not tell us," he said.

Aside from Lim, another officer was identified by Tolentino as a conspirator, gave the details of the plot, he said.

Tolentino also confirmed that Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabreay, chief of the Southern Luzon Command, also assured his troops to stop the Scout Rangers from leaving Metro.

Intelligence sources in Malacañan's Palace identified themselves to civilian clothes for the operations on Feb. 23, it was learned.

Tolentino said he followed Senga because of loyalty to the AFP chief of staff but out of a "larger loyalty to the constitution, to the Presidency and country."

Palparan answered to what asked if it was out of loyalty to Esperon that he fanned up to the Rangers "It is part of our job to defend democracy," he said.

According to Palparan, the vanilla should go to intelligence officers who "did their job" in confronting that "some officers" in his area division were "apparently convinced" to join Lim's move.

Palparan declined to give names but said six enlisted personnel were recommended of them, he said, were later detained and "have been recommended for discharge."

Habitual delinquents

Also yesterday, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, speaking before the Philippine Independent Church Supreme Council Diplomacy, said rogue soldiers have tough sanctions to discourage coup plots and rehabilitate "habitual delinquents."

Participants in past coup attempts had been treated lightly, including pushups for troops who repeatedly challenged their President Corazon Aquino during her 1986-92 term.

Cruz said he had introduced reforms to remove the military from politics and had tried to address the grievances of soldiers about housing, salaries, equipment and combat pay.

"Basically, we really shut leaders of a coup, they should all be lined up and shot," said security analysts first Bulacan who, as a Navy captain, was implicated in coup plots against Aquino.

The commanders of the Navy and the constabulary in the Air Force resigned."

With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine B. Avendaño in Manila; and Anselmo A. Roque, PIA Central Luzon Desk

'CAN' NOT 'MUST'

Noli stands by comments but questions headline

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO TESTIFIED today that his comments he had made to the reporters about the importance of President Macapagal-Arroyo supplanting the "Hello Garci" tapes but took exception to a word that this newspaper used in the headline of its banner story last Tuesday.

De Castro was asked by the Inquirer if he was dismissing what he had been quoted as saying in Sunday's top story in light of radio interviews yesterday in which he complained about the headline.

"No, I did not deny (anything), it was just the headline," De Castro said. Sunday's banner headline said: "Noli: GMA must replace."

The Inquirer should have used the word "can" instead of "must" in the headline, De Castro said, adding he felt also that the headline should have explained that the President was quite capable of making such an explanation.

De Castro said the headline disturbed some Palace officials who felt that the President had already given her side on the issue. He said he brought the matter up with the President while they were en route to Sen Bonifacio yesterday morning.

"I told her that I had, indeed, made those comments to you, but I also stressed that she could easily explain herself to the people," De Castro said. "I told her the headline was wrong."

Asked what Mr Arroyo's response was, De Castro replied, "Nothing, she just laughed."

He said he also explained to the President that the comments he had made to the Inquirer were not unsolicited advice but were his response to a question on whether he believed Mr Arroyo should explain the "Hello Garci" tapes during a proposed dialogue with the military to stem restiveness among its members.

Sunday's story was the result of an earlier interview in which De Castro, apprised that the "Hello Garci" scandal was one of the issues causing restiveness in the military, said he believed it was time for the President to clear the air since she was not able to do that well in the height of the scandal since communication was still running high.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Presidential Management Chief Mike Defensor, however, quickly shot down De Castro's statement, saying the matter should be put to rest. Bunye said that while the Palace respected De Castro's view, the issue had already gone through legislative inquiries and impeachment proceedings.

Erap testimony set on March 22

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY SET former President Joseph Estrada's testimony in his own plunder trial for March 22 after moving short by a week a request by his lawyers to postpone the hearing further by 15 days.

Special Division Justice Teodoro Peralta said the requested postponement of Estrada's testimony until March 29 was "too long."

He was originally scheduled to testify in his own behalf on March 15, but former Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, one of Estrada's lawyers, informed the court that the defense could not be ready by that date because they had suffered "the loss of a week of preparation" as a result of the detained leader's eye operation last month.

Another member of Estrada's defense team, former Manila Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano, sought a reconsideration of the court's order, saying the former President needed more time to study the five-year-old trial's transcripts.

Flaminiano promised Bion would be no more requests for postponement and that, to expedite the proceedings, he would personally conduct Estrada's direct examination. But the court refused to postpone the hearing by more than seven days, even after Flaminiano suggested raising the matter to the Supreme Court.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he was not surprised by the postponement, charging that the defense had been delaying the proceedings.

Villa-Ignacio added that the actions of Estrada's lawyers in court were contrary to the public pronouncements of the former President, who had claimed he was "racing to testify" so the people would know the truth.

Group protests screening of 'Casanova'

By Lelia B. Salaverria

AN ARTS FOUNDATION'S GROUP has criticized the X-15 rating given by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to the film "Casanova," saying minors should not be allowed to view the movie because of its sexual content and anti-Christianity scenes.

In fact, If Aldo Filomeno and the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography had their way, the film would not have been allowed to play in Philippine movie houses at all.

"That film should have been banned in the first place," Filomeno told reporters at the Eagleson in Alapalia Extension. He said the film insulted the Roman Catholic Church and was unfit for its movie-going people because of the supposedly young adam it imparts.

"The film is an affront to Christianity and a total abuse against innocent children's," he said.

"Casanova" features the story of the legendary lover known for his chauvinist ever women. It has been showing in theaters for a week.

Among the things Filomeno protested were a sex scene involving a man, presumably Casanova's seduction of different women, and a scene showing three men being tortured by a bishop and his assistants.

Filomeno said the MTRCB violated the law when it allowed minors to view Casanova. He said the law states the MTRCB should disapprove or delete portions that are immoral, indecent or would encourage violence or crime.

He said he was not worried that his group's objection to the film would attract more viewers.

"What we're talking about is the truth that it's not good for children," he said.

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Bunye leaves it to AFP to file case vs Inquirer

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"hands-off" policy on the matter.

The military might "have their reasons" for considering taking legal action against the Inquirer, he said.

"[But] as far as we are concerned, what needs to be done is a strict implementation of whatever limit we have," he told reporters, citing the law that the country had least against libel and libel-like considerations.

Asked if he thought the Inquirer was out of line when it ran the stories, Bunye said: "I wouldn't want to be the judge of that."

"I think that should be settled in a different forum, not here," Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye told Arroyo's spokesperson added.

Put up or shut up

At the House of Representatives, however, budget chief Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said the Inquirer's report on the Philippines should "put up or shut up."

The administration lawmaker said in a phone interview that it was "voucher referencing" of the AFP top brass to "threaten without."

"It's without basis, let me remind them that it's not yet under military rule and that they should stop threatening the media," said Pichay, vice chair of the House defense committee and a close ally of President Arroyo.

AFP spokesperson Col. Ernesto Ebuen earlier warned that the Inquirer could be charged with libel or sedition for publishing on March 11 and 12 "baseless articles" allegedly published by "unnamed sources and puppet masters" to divide the military.

Residual threats

"[But] even the President announced the existence of a coup which, however, was nipped in the bud. She even declared a state of emergency because of the threat of a coup," Pichay pointed out.

The lawmaker said Ebuen's denial that military adventurism had planned to replace Ms Arroyo with a caretaker government was contrary to the position taken by the Commander-in-Chief.

He noted that Ms Arroyo even admitted that she was still battling "residual" threats against her government.

Pichay then called on AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga to stop meddling the issue and instead turn his guns on "enemy forces within the military who are out to oust" the Arroyo administration.

"I'm warning the media won't stop residual forces who are out to oust the President another adventurist scheme," he added.

Provide legal backbone

For his part, the House committee on justice urged the military to turn over its probe on the Inquirer articles so that it would fill the necessary charges against all those considered to still be posing "residual threats against the duly constituted government" now.

Representatives Maximilian Libanan of Eastern Samar and Salvador Escudero of Sorsogon, both lawyers and committee vice chairs, said that instead of trying to stop the freedom of the press enshrined in the Constitution, the AFP should help set up the job.

They reminded Senga and Ebuen that only the legal process could provide the solution to stopping the coup plotters and their financiers from launching another destabilization attempt against the government.

If the AFP fails to provide a legal backbone to Malacañang's claims—such as in the absence of a formal case against coup plotters—rebel soldiers would continue to use flimsy excuses and even their instruction to illegitimately overthrow the Arroyo government, said Libanan.

Sanctions

"It's time we bring them to justice. The AFP must complete its probe and punish all those responsible to back up the case that will be filed against the coup plotters. Otherwise, these rebel soldiers will be acting like spoiled brats who would throw tantrums if they don't get what they want. They still have to be held accountable for the psychosocial unsettlings," said Libanan.

Belling to give the military rebels the "sanctions they deserve, if evidence warrants this, will pose a bigger threat than the so-called residual threat," according to Butch.

Fearless views

Labor-ng Bitas chair Francisco Sumaoang also expressed support for the Inquirer to expand on its fearless views "based on the right to free speech and the right to a million threats from the Arroyo regime," he said.

"Iron-curtain dictatorship is back and all angles in the story—even if this angers the Arroyo government and the remaining corrupt officers in the AFP. The PDI should continue its responsibility of keeping the public informed and not bubble down to pressure from the Arroyo regime," he said.

Sumaoang also called on media to continue to assert press freedom.

"We call on the PDI and the media in general to continue asserting press freedom. You are not alone in your quest for the truth and defense of the people's right to be informed. You have the majority of freedom-loving Filipinos behind you," he said.

NTC powers

Even so, broadcast regulators yesterday reiterated their belief that they could take over or close down radio and television stations under the "unlicensed" news stories, a few days after media groups went before the courts to question this power.

At the same time, however, National Telecommunications Commissioner Chief Ronald Solis said he assured the owners of various media groups in electric the media in the country, saying this would save and let all rest on the questions of the NTC's powers.

"My intention that we have the power to suspend or close down stations," he said in an interview with reporters yesterday.

Apart from various media groups, Solis' position has also been criticized by several lawmakers like Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo who said that regulating the content of the airwaves was beyond the NTC's mandate.

Solis said the agency's power to regulate broadcast content was incorporated in the Public Service Act, which was enacted in 1936. "It is an antiquated law but it is still in force," he said.

Solis pointed out that the broadcast regulators had not released any new guidelines apart from those issued in 1985 and 1989.

Army builds special jail …

From page A1

Lacuna na sila d'yan (They will be included there)."

Transient quarters

Adjoining prison facilities are reportedly also being planned, too.

Inquirer quipped: "Dami think of them as detention cells. Think of them as transient transient quarters."

Army officials, who asked not to be named, said the military leadership planned to gather in Special Action Force head Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco in the plot.

The new prison facility will not be ready until "several more weeks," according to one Army official.

Another wind blows

But a different wind is blowing through the country's Catholic convents across the country.

It is it nuns reporting their role during the martial law years, religious congregations have unanimously agreed to provide safe haven to all victims of repression under the Arroyo administration, a member of one congregation told the Inquirer.

The decision is contained in the draft of a new set of guidelines for the nuns' work by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), an umbrella organization of more than 260 congregations.

The document spells out as a "means of action" the opening of the doors of convents and seminaries to anyone who would fall victim to state military arrest, detention, and even "restoration."

Repressive laws

"Let us overcome fear," the group said in the draft, a copy of which was shown to the Inquirer over the weekend.

The group drafts such documents only for important events, like elections, the source said.

"It's even more compelling now because of the repressive laws of the Arroyo administration," she said. "They still remain even if Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 (an outlawed emergency rule) has been lifted."

The AMRSP came up with the draft after a daylong closed-door gathering at Xavier University last week.

Ten of them present at the meeting, a priest and a nun, said the document was agreed upon in principle by the religious superiors present.

Draft circulated

Although the guidelines have no binding effect on the congregations, they are generally observed, the two religious said.

They said that the draft had been circulated among members for their perusal or if they wanted to add anything, but essentially the contents of the message would be kept intact.

The AMRSP membership includes the Jesuits, Benedictines, Redemptorists, Franciscans, Augustinians and the Lasallian and Marist brothers of the Philippines.

'Confusion … anger'

In the draft guidelines, the group expressed alarm over "repressive" measures, such as the government's calibrated preemptive response policy on grounds of, San, Executive Order No. 464 barring government officials from appearing in congressional hearings without Ms Arroyo's clearance, and Proclamation No. 1017.

"These measures only caused "confusion, division, anxiety, anger, fear and unrest among the people who are zealous in protecting their civil liberties enshrined in the Bill of Rights," the draft said.

"We cannot watch with indifference the unfolding of these events reminiscent of the martial law days because of the chilling effect in the society," it added.

Legal freelancer and women's group Kanlaon Center convened for consultative meeting of PP 1017 during the meeting. Another speaker, university professor Randy David, recalled his experience when he was arrested without a warrant for joining a protest action on Edsa on Feb. 24.

"We find ourselves sharing the confusion of our people in an atmosphere of fear and helplessness brought about by the unfeeling pronouncements of the government regarding the real condition of the country," he said.

One prevailing sentiment during the deliberation was for the AMRSP to make Ms Arroyo and her "minions" accountable to the people for Proclamation No. 1017, according to the Inquirer sources.

Price tag: ₱200M, ₱30M, ₱3M, . . .

From page A1

campaign manager Lito Banayo, and a staff member of an ABS-CBN television program.

The officials reportedly required the offer because they found the price too high. They wanted the fee jumped to the office of the "Hello Garci" tape, Tbgl. Iddd Diddo, got only P2 million reportedly from the camp of former President Joseph Estrada.

2B policemen

The "Hello Garci" tape contained the wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano that the opposition claims showed how Ms Arroyo rigged the presidential election. Ms Arroyo has denied that she spoke the election.

Quoting one of the peddlers, an opposition leader said the P200 million would be divided equally among some 20 to 60 police officers and civilian security officers hosting the footage.

"You are not only paying for the 'Hello Garci' tape anymore, you are financing the future of those officers."

Realizing that there were no takers, the CD peddlers, according to the opposition leader, reduced the price to P30 million.

Some of the members of the opposition were said to be willing to raise P50 million for the CD on the condition that the security officers would issue statements of denials and would all appear as a news conference detailing how they obtained the CD.

The money was supposed to be turned over to the security officers before they boarded a plane bound for abroad.

For still unknown reasons, the negotiation collapsed.

Last card

Before the alleged coup attempt scheduled on Feb. 24, the price went down to P3 million. After the standoff at Malacañan headquarters on Saturday ago, it was raised anew to P30 million with some opposition leaders describing it as the opposition's "last card" in their quest to find some assurance to the election fraud scandal.

In contrast, the price of another CD that detailed how election returns were reportedly fabricated in a printing press in Cainta, Rizal, was fixed at P1 million.

The CD also showed names, which were first reported by Newsweek magazine, on irregularities in the 2004 elections, and named Lawyer Roque Bello as among those behind the tampering of election returns.

The cost of Cainta, Bello reportedly wanted the printing price. The Inquirer yesterday tried to contact Bello, a former election official of the town, but his cell number was not working.

The CD contained photos that should have accompanied the Newsweek story, Yesterday, the Malaya newspaper published the photos.

One of the photos showed an ali cpp with license plate No. PXK-338 allegedly used to deliver election returns.

House probe of CD on 'break-in' urged

From page A1

plates that aroused her of poll fraud and other illegal acts.

The opposition claims that Ms Arroyo rigged the election so to dissuade by her wiretapped conversations with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano while the votes were being canvassed. The President has denied rigging the polls.

Bunye said the news about the alleged break-in was another attempt at "dirty tricks and psychological manipulation."

The break-in was reportedly recorded by one of the security officers using a small digital video camera.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson also alleged that he was the target of a break-in attempt at his office in Pasay City.

Lacson explained that he was tipped off by his security officers, some of whom were active members of an elite police group.

The break-in purportedly took place in January and February 2005 while a group of heavily armed policemen stood guard outside the Batasan complex entrance, the officers said, of a related police general.

The theft took place five months before the ballot boxe were transported to the House of Representatives to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal in 2005, according to the officers.

Another CD shown to the Inquirer last week by another set of policemen detailed how election returns were allegedly fabricated in a printing press in Cainta.

Opposition witnesses

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile also said that the CD viewed by the Inquirer confirmed the allegations of ballot-box switching at the House of Representatives that he raised during the impeachment hearing.

"It shows that we were not running up with a stolen set of ballot," Enrile said.

Zamora, however, would not elaborate on the CD because he had yet to see it.

"Me too, the video shown at me was not in a disc. I can't say if they are the same," he said.

He said he had witnesses who knew about the ballot switching.

One of them, who might have testified had the impeachment proceedings pushed through, had shown him a video of the ballot box switching, Zamora said.

De Venecia strikes praise

Speaker Jose de Venecia has ordered House electricity friend Roberto Nazareno and Deputy Secretary General Antonio Miguel to conduct an investigation of the alleged break-in.

De Venecia said in one text, *why on* they bringing it up only now? Even so, I have ordered . . . an investigation," the Speaker said on radio dzBB.

Before he could conduct an investigation, Nazareno obviously desired members of the House security force and the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police.

"It's difficult for an inside job and commission to happen," he told reporters at the House media center.

Asked why this was so, Nazareno said: "Because we trust our security people. Every night they would inspect the ballot boxes even in the presence of the members of the Special Action Force guarding the premises."

He said all the ballot boxes stored in the South Wing of the House were still in the basement.

Video tapes erased

In a statement, Nazareno said the storage room was on a 24-hour security watch backed up by a closed-circuit monitoring system.

The House security however, said that a year than the video tapes were only good for two weeks before being erased over and recorded over again due to a lack of tapes.

Majority leader Prospero Nograles confirmed the statement of a video tape purportedly showing the break-in and theft of election returns at the House, but he insisted that the recording could not be used as "substantial."

"Break-in? I doubt it. The House is heavily guarded and has video cameras," he said.

Nograles recalled that opposition lawmakers had questioned the security of the election returns in 2004 when, in fact, "they did not push through for lack of any evidence that the CDs kept at the House were switched or tampered with."

Best proof

Rep. Monico Puentevella (Lakas, Negros Occ), vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said the revival of the break-in issue was unjust because it came on the heels of an aborted coup d'etat.

Rep. Dureza said the video tape, if genuine, would have been the "best proof against the President during the impeachment."

Police appeared to be distancing themselves from the alleged break-in and switching of ballot boxes at the Batasan complex.

The House sergeant-at-arms, Bayani Fabic, will investigate the reports, according to Senior Supt. Ismael Pagtilan Jr.

The police will only come into the picture "if requested" by House officials, he said.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao and Chief Supt. Renato Baclayon Jr., head of the Quezon City police, in coordination with Fabic in case police help were needed.

Pagtilan said the PNP would not be Baclayon's report. With reports from Inquirer Central Luzon Jr. and Luigi A. del Puerto

Lawyers warn GMA on abuse of power

From page A1

arbitrary arrests, and whatever you have," Mendoza said.

"But then again, these are questions of fact," he added.

Immunity

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, chair of the investigating subcommittee on justice and human rights, pointed out that Mr Arroyo enjoyed immunity from suit and would only be held culpable "perhaps after she steps down."

He said the testimonies of the lawyers and the former justice secretary highlighted "questions on the implementation of 1017."

The Senate opened its inquiry into PP 1017 on Thursday after 16 senators filed a resolution condemning the government's raid on and attempts to control the media, the warrantless arrest of individuals, and other acts carried out under the state of emergency.

Mr Arroyo issued PP 1017 placing the country under a state of national emergency on Feb. 24 after the military uncovered a plot by key officers to join protest marches on Edsa and announce their withdrawal of support from her.

Missing punch line

Mendoza also said PP 1017 appeared to be deficient in the sense that while it contained a declaration of a state of national emergency, it stopped short of giving any orders to the military.

"The punch line was missing," he said.

Mendoza pointed out that Proclamation No. 1021, which was issued on March 3 lifting the state of national emergency, did not explicitly revoke General Order No. 5 and No. 6.

"Therefore in the text is it written that General Order 5 and 6 were revoked, rescinded or ceased to have any effect. Whether this omission was deliberate or merely an oversight, I guess only time will tell," she said.

"And if you put this sentence together with statements that 'yes, we are repeal 1017 anytime,' then it is cause for concern," she added.

At the hearing, UP professor and constitutional law Randy David pressed Congress to review the validity of PP 1017, which he said abridged rather than enhanced the people's right to assemble peacefully.

"When I read Batas Pambansa Blang 880, I had the impression that this wasn't so act enacting the free exercise by the people of their right to peaceably assemble and to petition the government or other purposes," he said.

"Rather it struck me more as an abridgment precisely of the constitutional right to free expression and to assemble peacefully. That is why my bishop is the GP880, which was made law by law in 1985 at the height of the rallies against the Marcos government, is, it breathes in character," he said.

David, together with Ronald Llamas of Bayan and Jeremy Argus Guerrero, was arrested in front of Camp Crame on Feb. 24 while marching toward the Edsa shrine.

Across the NATION

Bulacan folk seek stop to quarrying

By Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Blanche Rivera, to Manila

CITY OF MALOLOS—BULAKEÑOS HAVE launched a signature campaign to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop quarrying and mining operations at the Biak-na-Bato National Park and tourist areas in the mountains of Doña Remedios Trinidad and San Miguel towns, 45 km east of this city.

A environmental group led by the Bangal ng Bulacan Foundation Inc. said the move was meant to stop the destruction of the park and to prevent landslides similar to what happened in Southern Leyte last month that buried thousands of residents and schoolchildren there.

Remedios Magdaong, the group's president, said more than 1,000 leaders of religious, education, business, youth, workers, science and technology sectors had already joined the drive to save the Biak-na-Bato Park.

Last month, Ricardo Mellza Jr., provincial environment and natural resources officer, asked a court here to issue a temporary restraining order against a private company quarrying at the Biak-na-Bato reservation.

The Biak-na-Bato was declared a national park on Nov. 16, 1937 by Proclamation No. 223. It has an area of 2,117 hectares of land, mostly covering Alagao in Doña Remedios Trinidad and San Miguel.

Through Proclamation No. 683 issued on April 13, 1989, the national government redefined the boundaries of the park and set aside portions of it as mineral and watershed reservations.

On Feb. 6, 1998, Republic Act No. 8549 was enacted declaring the Biak-na-Bato Park a historical shrine and keeps tourist destination.

Governor Villela, president of a people's organizations' federation called Buklok, said quarrying and mining operations of private firms in the Biak-na-Bato conservation site were endangering the lives of local residents.

The site, a refuge for the Katipuneros during the Filipino-Spanish war in the 19th century, has become a battleground between environmentalists and quarrying firms.

Environmentalists and local officials have asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to stop the operations of Bonanza Mining and Development Corp. (BMDC) inside the park.

In a letter to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, the environmentalist group expressed concern over the "illegal and environmentally hazardous exploitation" of the park.

Reigen Hallenan and BMDC had been engaged in quarrying for more than a year even without permit.

BMDC extracts marble from a 10-hectare area within the mineral reservations by virtue of a controversial Mineral Production Sharing Agreement it obtained from the DENR under then Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

The company used to operate under quarry license No. 10 which it obtained from the Marcos regime in 1982. The license was cancelled with finality by the Supreme Court in November 2004.

LAUNDRYMAT
Women find a space for their laundry in a room that is supplied with water from a spring they call Ubi Patrimo in Barangay Aplaya in Binan, Batangas City.

Sulu land dispute leads to mortar shelling

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AN EXCHANGE of gunfire involving a group of troopers in Barangay Sabbas in Siasi, Sulu ended up in an exchange of mortar fire for almost eight hours yesterday.

Col. Jaime Bo Gabbiso, commander of the 32nd Marine Brigade in Jolo, said the indiscriminate firing of mortar shells in Barangay Sabbas started at 5 a.m. and ended at 1 p.m.

Gabbiso said the shelling stopped only when soldiers from the Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 proceeded to the area and intervened.

"But we have warned the two families that whoever starts fire, either by shelling or shooting, we will directly confront them," Gabbiso said.

He identified the two families as, reportedly, that of Datucon Sumalo Indol and a certain DPGT Salih.

Gabbiso admitted that they could not get details of possible casualties because "our troopers are concentrating on quelling the two warring groups." Joelle Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Application On-going

SURVIVORS Children who were forced to flee their homes following a landslide in Guinsaugon Village in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte congregate at the United Church of Christ in the Philippines Church that was turned into a makeshift evacuation center. The children and their families were from Barangay Hinabian.

Relief goods being sold in Guinsaugon

By Jess A. Gobrin
PDI Visayas Bureau

SUBERBARO, SOUTHERN LEYTE—SOME evacuees of this landslide-hit town have reportedly sold some of the canned goods given to them because they were either too tired of eating them or they needed money.

Ms. Victoria Labarinto, chief of the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council, and Ms. Lenica Ira-allergy of relief distribution, heard talk about some evacuees selling food items intended for them.

"As to how many of these evacuees are doing this selling of relief supplies, I cannot tell. We don't have any personal encounter with any one of them, but we have heard it," she said.

Labarinto, whose office oversees the distribution of relief supplies, said the local government unit should institute measures to stop this practice.

"For one, we have asked all nongovernment organizations that are giving relief supplies to the victims to coordinate with our office first before they conduct their distribution. This way, we can monitor the items given to the evacuees and, at the same time, give what they just need without them doing it," she said.

Lenica said she, too, heard about the talk but added that the undistributed relief some of the evacuees numbering over 3,000, were doing fine.

"Of course, what they are doing is not good. It is a bad display of their behavior. These food supplies are for them. But I guess we cannot really totally blame them. Perhaps, they want to eat other than those given to them," she said.

"They don't have any work. They need some cash to buy some of their needs not provided by us," she added.

Lenica said the practice had been going on for days. Some sell the food items distributed to them or exchange these with fish or vegetables, she said.

An evacuee, who asked to be identified only as Rino, said some sold or bartered part of their food rations to outsiders who went into the evacuation centers, as to fishermen.

Some evacuees refused to comment when confronted by the reporter.

A store owner near the St. Bernard Central School admitted buying any food items from the evacuees.

The report was denied by Amerik Lumo, a volunteer who helped handle the information desk at the Christ the King Regional High School, one of the evacuation centers.

"We have introduced a gate pass policy here. Every time their permanent base the premises, they are being requested. That is why we can monitor the alleged selling of relief supplies is not happening here," Lumo said.

Many of the evacuees have been eyeing to relocate since Feb. 17 when a massive landslide buried Guinsaugon.

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2 men pay hair for harassing Malolos woman

CITY OF MALOLOS —Two men allegedly had long hair to be decorative Mardi-Gras, International News, with Ching, no pressure for harassing a 35-year-old woman here.

Mark Alvarez, 24, and Charlie Ching, 22, both from this city, decided to cut their hair, which they kept long for five years, was a more acceptable punishment than a sexual harassment suit being prepared by the woman's family and friend.

The two men apologized to the woman for bombarding her cellular phone with unwelcome romantic advances, during a restaurant meeting with her and her husband and their relatives on Tuesday afternoon.

The woman said the two men, who are mountaineering enthusiasts, had been alternately calling or texting her since March 1 to cajole her into meeting a date with them.

The woman said she tried to discourage the two men, but they continued harassing her.

Her husband, a radio reporter here, discovered the text messages and had publicly humiliated the two. He asked them by telephone to desist from annoying his girlfriend because they already had wedding plans.

But he said he was shocked when the two fired back with harsh words, and dared him to a fist fight. He said he recorded the conversations as part of their evidence against the two men.

Alvarez and Ching offered to settle their differences.

But the woman's boyfriend wanted their hair. Lawinda Bayot, PDN Central Luzon Desk

Unknown disease stalks Sorsogon jail

SORSOGON CITY—A mysterious illness continues to hound prisoners of the provincial jail here and has caused the death of at least eight prisoners since October last year.

Three of the prisoners died within a week.

The deaths prompted Gov. Raul Lee to send a medical team from the provincial health office to investigate.

Jose Lopez, jail custodial officer, said the three inmates who died in just a span of six days exhibited common symptoms.

The latest victims were identified as Angel Tagle, who died on March 6; Edwin Leyte, March 6; and Eduardo del Rosario, March 14.

All experienced paleness, edema and reddish necklaces before they died. Edema is an abnormal accumulation of fluids in a connective tissue or in cavities.

Lopez said that as far as he and other jail officials could remember, the first fatality Christopher Rivera, had the same symptoms before he died in jail on Oct. 2 last year.

Four more prisoners died after Rivera. They were identified as Jimmy James Salinas, who died on Oct. 21, 2005; Lorenz Abrazo, Dec. 27, 2005; Jesse Rodolfo, Jan. 20; and Wilmel Solano, Feb. 6.

Provincial health officer Dr. Edgar Garcia said he could not yet identify the disease that caused the deaths. But he said the latest victim was found to have died of a heart attack.

Garcia, however, explained that heart attack could just be the secondary cause and another disease, the primary cause, could have triggered the heart attack.

Garcia said his office would conduct a background study on the victims to check their health history, as well as health conditions inside the jail, including the inmates' meals.

The health official said malnutrition could be one reason, citing the symptoms exhibited by the victims.

The inmates have reportedly complained about the food being given to them, be a canteen, said to be managed by acting warden, James Pena.

It was learned that the prisoners were usually given a cup of rice, dried fish and some broth for lunch and dinner, and just a cup of coffee and two pieces of bread for breakfast.

Pena said he was also puzzled by the deaths.

Governor Lee has ordered an investigation of jail conditions, including the status of jail breaks that resulted in the escape of at least 11 prisoners.

He said he would designate an acting warden pending results of the probe. Bobby Cerbolles, PDN Southern Luzon Bureau

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OPINION

Sound advice

LAST SATURDAY, VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to address squarely the "Hello Garci" question to stem the reinvestment in some version of our country particularly the military. This is unprecedented but sound advice from the Vice President who has himself said that it was not his habit to give unsolicited advice to the President.

EDITORIAL

We believe that the President would do well to heed her Vice President's advice. This "Hello Garci" matter lies at the root of the questions over the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency, and unless it is addressed and explained to the satisfaction of the people, political instability and turmoil will continue until the very end of Mr Arroyo's term. If she is really concerned about the economic and political stability of the nation, she could do worse than the present state of affairs to continue?

Actually, Mr Arroyo addressed the "Hello Garci" issue at the height of the scandal last year, but her statement raised more questions than it gave answers. In a short speech broadcast over nationwide TV, she apologized for what she called "a lapse in judgment" in phoning an election official when she did not identify. She said she did it because she wanted to protect her votes. She did not give any other details. Her statement only strengthened the belief of some sectors that she rigged and stole the 2004 presidential election.

If she is finally to give a complete explanation, how will she do it? An impeachment trial would be ideal because it is an adversarial proceeding. Her testimony at that of her aides could be challenged by the testimony of other witnesses. The truth of statements could be proved or disproved by the presentation of evidence and by the cross-examination of witnesses. Finally, the people may get the whole truth about the "Hello Garci" scandal and the 2004 presidential elections.

The country could have been resolved had the impeachment trial been allowed to proceed last year, but her allies in the House used their overwhelming numbers to quash the impeachment complaints. We hope the pro-administration congressmen would think carefully before they vote on an expected impeachment complaint this year. If they want to put an end to the current political instability, an impeachment trial could be the solution.

Another way of addressing the issue of the legitimacy of Mr Arroyo's presidency would be to hold a snap presidential election. Congress could pass a law authorizing the holding of a snap election since the Constitution does not provide for it. Thailand is now about to hold a snap election to try to put an end to its current political turmoil. Like Mr Arroyo, Thaksin has been asked to resign by protesters, but he has said time and again that he would not bow to their demands for his resignation

Defining parameters

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassayuran

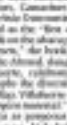
IF THE FACIST SHOE FOR THE EGOCENTRIC Lagman's father, I cleaned each corner of Edsa's shoe cleanliness from 1972 to 1986. From 1986. The topic on the establishment by the former administration to enforce cleanliness that supported the recent coup attempt. One lawyer said he is all for the purge which is long overdue. His reason is he is tired of looking. It has now become dreary to meet him the 6th Sunday of the rebellious military by just administration has no escape but to slightly decrease or repeatedly say nothing down to the government.

The ties between the big guns and the military establishment were recently published articles shows that they are always two sides of a coin. Since the past 50 years, the former has embraced seamless design of the military and understandably many of them do not want to be spoken. On the other hand, the military who don't look beyond its "weapons" may not be telling the whole truth, or that they may be manipulating a lot than some agenda. It have that half-truths may be telling (willingly or unwittingly, destabilization efforts. The military said it's thinking of filing charges against those who are aggrieved by a news article or say a right can Constitution guarantees. On the other hand, the newspapers would not be wanting for lawyers ready to defend the freedom of the press. Both sides are probably right defining the parameters of news media relations along the boundaries of media freedom and responsibility, which should not be opposing but term or partner concepts.

Sen. Jinky Lacson was quoted as wondering why there has been "no outrage" over what he described as the violations of people's civil liberties and the unchecked power of left-wing Bayan members. The latter even drew some protest from some Bayan members, but Atienza noted that there was hardly a whimper even in the former. I suspect one reason is that people are afraid to speak out. Fear of reprisal is also supposed well from leftist leaders.

Where these millions that surfaced in the middle of the party for cynics, following the repeal of the so-

Middle-class anger



AT LARGE

Elena Jimenez-Gaerlan

IT TOOK THE ASSASSINATION OF NINOY Aquino to finally rouse the Filipino middle class from its collective stupor and turn against the Marcos dictatorship.

Before Aug. 21, 1983, much of the fighting was left to the underground rebels and militants in both the left and right of Center, who engaged in the dangerous pursuit of trying to educate the middle class on the perils of martial law, its usual cronyism or "crony capitalism," abuse and violations of human rights and economics in urban poor communities, "tearing" of the social fabric and the growing alienation of the communities in service of "development" projects, but none of these aroused as much the general populace's. Besides, much of the media, in the hands of the Marcos cronies and relatives, were under strict control.

Ironically, it was the private business sector that led the growing resistance. "Crony capitalism," a term first used by business leader Jaime Ongpin, aroused interest in the previously dormant of Ateneo friends who were asking even important owners of the economy, those many their political influence to win monopoly control were losing ground to Cronyism and about were the taking their well, business and profits.

The economic crisis, coupled with popular outrage over the killing of Ninoy galvanized the middle class like no other event. The moral outrage was palpable. Even those who were not active in the opposition movement were disgusted and disappointed. Moreover, upon previous fears involving the modes of party representation and even the smallest gestures were being to have outstanding issues that had suddenly disappeared from the headlines. The "normalization" campaign. Those leads against the wall, the anxiety of their economic security discovered, the middle class responded to the call of the times. Suddenly professionals—the doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects, artist groups organized themselves and made their influence pervasive felt in rallies. Masses of exclusive schools, the source of the country's economic and social elite, adopted similar issues evoking revolutionary fervor and formed the almost daily street protests.

SO OPPOSITION leader has been assassinated, though a number, notably the most influential of the party-list legislators, have been arrested, or taken under the duress of arrest. Officials have warnings about how to behave in Edsa 3, which was possibly fostered the killed coup, and other similar GMA figures are under surveillance, and how they would be brought to "room," the military boss is threatening it "harsh." Yet protesters especially call middle of today.

The fear and tension are there, but there is the public anger? Public opinion surveys reveal that the majority of the Filipino people believe that the President has yet to tell the truth to people about the results of the 2004 elections and that they think she should resign or be replaced. But we have yet to feel that public opinion support expressed in terms of numbers will translate, in fact, or the palpable anger expressed in speeches at rare rallies, protests and political pamphlets.

Interestingly, a friend who is commenting on the Philippines from abroad has been receiving e-mail messages labeling "boycott" of the 2004 Batasan elections had he public opinion whatsoever when only a few pieces of the "boycott" piece told.

Is the middle class, the educated professionals—and customers for them—indicative of public indifference, or just the lack of entrepreneurial heroes among today's passengers?

EXPLANATIONS for the political apathy of the members of the Filipino middle class—as well as their anger at the various groups threatening its economic status, the latest administration—have not been lacking. Last Sunday, I explained the rebound of Ninoy Aquino, and the current preoccupation to reflect the continuance of the middle class, to society issued by Fanning Romulo, who is himself a member. Any contemporary, who happens to read the article "Black and White" memories.

Like Aquino's assassin, they are "rich and tired" of the city judged by people who persist in adopting a "morally superior" stance in every issue that who doesn't share in their sentiments.

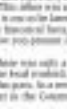
Has the loss of democratic rights day by day angered enough the protesters but not revived. Penalties like signed decrees, even if, as Ateneo says, because is really their loss. Or why they are not upset or the right of leader having up demonstrations and boldly exercising of certain freedoms of the press and the constitutional right to peacefully assemble and express their sentiments. Or why they are upset at the rallies and protests, suspension of investigations, attempts at revisionist history, the killing of activists and the journalists of a media editorial or at a Commission being summarily proposed as president's may in effect.

PERHAPS President Macapagal-Arroyo is simply lucky. This latest crisis has come at a time when the national mood has felt a domineering, and when there is no compelling reason to form a middle-class anger.

The middle class may influence on the anger of the underclass, as shown by the protests May 1 mainly on radio Makabayan, the first incident threat to the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency. But the mass, is unsure, does not direct public opinion—or at least not yet. Perhaps the middle class, despite our dwindling numbers, it's still the bourgeoisie that creates the critical mass necessary for "People Power" or the the power of public opinion to create the compelling need, moment for a presidential resignation.

Of course, there's no guarantee that even if we should, by some miracle, behold a resurrection of the participation of the citizens of 1983-1986, that the President would respond in the way she should. But at least she would not had as smug or self-righteous.

The real long march



WORLD VIEW

Yoo Shayun

EVERY NATION HAS ITS FOUNDING MYTH. In communist China, it is the Long March—it may not a yes with the founders' exodus from Egypt 3-year-related on it.

The March was the issued succinctly The Beijing Communist Party said in their Red soldier were thrown out of their bases in the South in the early 1930s by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government. Pursued and harassed by their enemies, they fought their way across China's wide, unfriendly terrain, and impossible grassland, with Mao wearing the course from enemy to victory. Mao was exalted and 18,000 miles of misfortune, courage, and hope against impossible odds. By the time it was finished over China's vast width of the 200,000 soldiers remained, seven out, but, second, has defiance. A decade later they fought back, defeated Chiang Kai-shek, and founded Mao's New China.

How does Chairman founding myth stand up to reality?

In 2004, 70 years after it began, I set out to remace the Long March. It remains a fascinating journey, for the route has changed little since the 1930s. Also, with dependable gears. Of the 40,000 survivors, perhaps 500 are still alive. I tracked down and interviewed 40 of them—military people who were left behind or managed to reach the end of the road with the Red Army by other means.

Beijing Dog was a boy a little taller than his age. He, which he joined the Red Army, the had no choice, they had arrested his father and would not release him, until Hsiang agreed. He thought he would be gone for a few months. He was complete and then. Many did not away. He travels into the March, Mao's First Army was reduced from 86,000 to 30,000 people. The boy is still thinned to the Army River Battle, On Mao's first big encounter with the Nationalists. At most, 10,000 Communists the rest vanished.

Another battle over the Dadu River, to the west of the Long March legend. 22 brave men opposed with overwhelmed a regiment of Nationalist troops guarding the chains of the leading bridge with machine guns, and opened the way for the marchers. In 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the New China, this crossing the Dadu River was held Party history the single most important incident during the Long March, and today it is enlarged to early.

But the documents that I have seen and the interviews I conducted in China cast doubt on the Dadu River was held Party history that the Communist crossed the Dadu River was held Party history was a very different story. "The affair was not so complicated as people made it out to be later," he said. "When you investigate historical facts, you should respect the truth. How you present it is a different matter."

As the legend has it, There was only a chain over the Dadu River. The brief resident, who himself Chiang Kai-shek, let him pass. In a second, he was Party made a minister in the Communist government.

The marchers did not know what they would find up. There were various defenses about this fact and documents. When they converged in south China in January 1935, it was the first time that the Communist Party had met as a body since the March. But the "potential" itself was not so profound. It could hardly support its own propaganda, let alone the Red armies.

Incident had an elusive to promote them from the Communist. "Women were ordered to wear boots and go home because there was not enough food." Shortly a month after the union of the three Red armies, the Party decided that the Long March was to be celebrated as the beginning of China's New deeds. By the ground he had promised to wipe out the Communists and them. As part of the price for his release, Chiang recognized the Communists as legitimate. The Long March was over.

But, however, for the 21,000 men and women of the Western Legion. They belonged to the fourth group headed by Zhang Guotao, Mao's arch-rival. Their mission was to go help from Hunan in the border in western China. But their large standing there overwhelmed orders, the fourth was that they could neither fight nor retreat.

Trapped in barren land where not even rats dwelt, the survivors were reduced to eating roots and weeds and even cow. Only 400 reached the border, the rest were killed or captured.

It was the Red Army's biggest defeat. Yet it is missing from official history. Zhang Guotao, it seems, never rose above the ranks of Mao's enemies as a counselor. That was enough to make her a traitor in the eyes of the Party, stripping all her years of dedication. She and the rest of the Fourth Army survivors had no right for half a century to receive pensions or medical care.

The Long Marchers persevered, fought, starved, despaired, and endured. Hunger drove the armies to take hostages for ransom. Purges murdered thousands. Many died of disease. Yet it remained faithful. If the marchers had doubts, they suppressed them with the help of Communist propaganda. They rose to their ordeal with a bravery and self-sacrifice unsurpassed in China's or anyone's history.

What motivated them? I asked a top general what he knew of communism at the time. "I had no idea then and now," he replied. "I doubt that even Mao knew what it was." For him, it survives of memory and pride, repression, communism was a broadside, sustaining theme, the hope of a just and advanced society.

But Mao's regime is not the Long March that was over.

Yoo Shayun is author of "The Long March," to be published in March 2006.

Father-daughter dance

I ABHOR MUCH OF A POETRY, BUT SOMETHING NORTH remembering happened last night that I really have to write about.

Papa was driving me to this my dinner when Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" was played on the radio. Neither of us usually enjoy driving in car rides, but for some reason, we began singing this tune which has been on a favorite for before daughter dances. There is his me, like Manny Pacquiao's knockout

MAIN 10A

YOUNG BLOOD

Tammy Alonzo

His time, how incredibly wonderful can relationship is.

Papa has been driving me to and from my dinner when Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" was played on the radio. Neither of us usually enjoy driving in car rides, but for some reason, we began singing this tune which has been on a favorite for before daughter dances. There is his me, like Manny Pacquiao's knockout

MAIN 10A

YOUNG BLOOD

Tammy Alonzo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? Or maybe you want to share your experiences with fellow young people? Then we want to hear from you. Send your contributions to young@mail.com.ph.

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I remember—almost

choke a week when I was in college, and every day when I was in high school—it's in some how it became sort of "obligatory" after I turned 13, when I legally became emancipated. In my younger years, we would talk about how my father was the best man in the world, how handsome he is, how generous he is, how life set the luck of it—just anything and everything under the sun. There are times when we would join in quietly together, enjoying the silence and the wisdom of each other's presence. What a wonderful world indeed.

I see trees of green, red roses too,
I see them bloom, for me and you
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more, than I'll ever know
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

Perhaps this is because my father's head may be behind me, and it is in the face that I believe in him and destiny, or that I know it would be hard for Papa to cruise it. You see, hard tears really get us whenever he'd hear Mama and me talk about weaknesses and meaningless. Once there was this guy who seriously made advances to me, and I was so confused that I thought I was falling. Papa would rather get sick or his non-object would suddenly fade.

Being 19, addicts, flops and I would "OK," "Mark," "Mine," and some other shows together. Curiously, whenever "What a Girl Wants" is on HBO, we always find ourselves standing it together to entire hours (incredible chance is). There other times, the Backstreet Boys' "I Want It That Way" or "Quit Playing" and say, "I'll love you ... it's time to let go." And then I do him.

Hell, usually give me a smile and sometimes say, "I love you, too." But it was only after about 15 or more or so and and bandage that he started to say a word to let go.

When I finished college, I had my father-daughter dance—Dante Bonifacio and Anthony Hopkins danced in "How to Make" before he left her. During my debut, almost five years ago, "Butterfly Kisses" was our dance. At that time, I felt close something in him was still holding on to me as his only daughter.

But after staying together "What A Wonderful World," last night, I told him, "Pa, I love you." When he answered back, "I love you, too," something in his tone assured me that now he really is ready to let me go.

Tammy Alonzo, 22, is a 2nd year student at the Ateneo de Manila School of Law.

Girl on the beach

Aldo Rose L. Villanueva

STANDING AT THE SHORE'S EDGE, FEET THE AFTER, I watched the waves glow her body, the water caressed all corners of the shoreline. She had grown up swimming on a beach like this—just a few kilometers north of where she was standing now, where she used was almost to dark as her hair and the years under like rain clouds. Yet these never once hammered to her as a child. The water was always nurturing, always forgiving.

She thought of several Sundays spent in this particular beach with her family, when she was still a child of five or younger. She dug deeper into her thoughts and found it incomprehensible that she could no longer remember the last time she had been to the beach. Being like here? Or more here, people she was with and who they are as people coming here all six caddies.

There were smooth stones at the water's edge, that were lapping at them every time the water came rushing into shore, rinsing itself into the sand like compassion still. There were tiny sea creatures, that she had been unaware of and hurried in the sand, while others drifted with the waves. They'll wake up in a different place somewhere, she thought and then for the thought gave this a tinge of jealousy.

She looked at her watch. About half an hour more and she would be going down the road again, forced to listen to everything that was going on radio on the car ride back home, after the very last departure was imposed, not. Laughter echoed behind her, but it sounded almost like a mockery of what happiness was. For the world, it was nothing more than a fleeting moment, a fallacy, reduced to mere rubber cubes and alcohol. She looked around her, searching for something that no one could see, find the perfect word to describe it. For the world, tears and happiness were in a constant chain, answering to various the other but another really emerging the other. How she longed for that other happiness would free to choose for herself. Finally became what it was meant to be, unobtainable meaning.

"For the time being then, am I lonely?" she mused. Her head answered with a silence no definite no. It was not because she was afraid to admit it but because it was the truth. But there she had always thought there was something temporary about the periods of loneliness, periods, years of death and dying. It was not about having mature depression or anything which should arise the psychologists alone in Bhutan having barely defined in a different sense: the world, to the point go for nothing lower inclination in the mini-crocodile is the only thing that matters. Her self-pity was not that she herself was an exception, the subdued. She was nothing more of a disappointment. Everybody was, but she did not think of that as a defense. That was just the way things were, things are and things will be. It's like being in the water with the waves pounding on you and you simply take along to survive. You ride on and on until you reach your floor.

She learned a style of a thousand meanings. The sun was still shining on her face, her cheeks soaking in the warmth she had always craved. It was time to put her hatred like someone else's dress. After all, she did not want to look for Logan and start wearing dresses of black. She simply did not like and was dark, the water smiles and that her hair drew between strings in the sun.

"It's like it's a battle," she concluded, "but it's daily existence in a blessing." Then she turned around and trudged back towards the end of another day and the beginning of a new coming same.

Aldo Rose L. Villanueva, 22, has a BS (Information Technology degree from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Into the shoes of Marcos

IN SIGNING THE WARRANT issued in 2003 by the Makati RTC, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo has given the green light to the arrest of party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, the Arroyo administration graphically showed that it had stepped into the shoes of the Marcos regime.

Proclamation 1017 was nothing but a disguised report of Marcos' 1081 martial law order. Similar to Marcos, Arroyo ordered the arrest of Beltran and thousands of other Filipinos by severely opposing the dictatorship regime. Many of them were subsequently tortured, even killed.

The Supreme Court is now due to hound to prove that it is indeed the last bulwark of civil liberties and human rights by acting as quickly as possible on the Arroyo proclamation. The members of the high tribunal have taken an oath to preserve and defend not just the letter of the Constitution but, more importantly, its spirit. The Court's decisions could neither preempt or promote dictatorial tendencies.

After Marcos declared martial law in 1972, his proclamation was immediately challenged by various organizations and individuals before the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court then failed to pass the supreme test of courage and wisdom when it failed to closely and decisively declare the Marcos proclamation unconstitutional, concluding that the basis for the proclamation was evidently non-existent, misplaced, misinterpreted and exaggerated yet legally inadequate. What followed were 14 years of brutal dictatorship and a dark age for the Filipino nation.

The Supreme Court is on institution haven once more a history of challenge. How will it respond?

—MICHELLE MARION
mlabarrete@yahoo.com

Veteran's widow still hoping to get justice

THE ARTICLE "PAO ARREARS: Widow's cousin 'in debt'" in the August 2005 issue of Veterans Today.

"The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran (pensioner) is entitled to a transfer of the Old Age Pension due to a veteran on date of death of the veteran."

My husband, Robert L. Hill (Sgt., USA, ret.), died on Oct. 1, 2003. I applied for Old Age Pension transfer and submitted the required documents to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office on Nov. 12, 2003. On Dec. 29, 2004, PVAO received the additional documents that it asked from me.

I received a letter dated Feb. 24, 2004, signed by Helen Farilla for PVAO administrator Rogelio Bayan, telling me that my initial check would be mailed to me "in due time" and that my pension return covering nine years more to be paid subject to the availability of funds. "But before intended mailing," it said.

Sure enough, I began receiving the Old Age Pension only in March 2005, retroactive to January 2005, and only after I had written/sent/sent a million (I am not exaggerating) letters to the PVAO.

Barbaro Ramos, chief of PVAO's Financial and Management Division, assured in his letter dated May 3, 2005 to me that my pension return could not be paid unless Congress appropriates money for the purpose. He refused to tell me what happened to the allotment for my husband's Old Age Pension, which should have been transferred to me.

In July last year, I wrote Paul Sa, who is chief of PVAO's Old Age Pension Division, after learning that funds for pension return had thankfully become available. I passed to PVAO the month before. I reminded Sadiko about my arrears and the Old Age Pension and Disability Pension arrears of my husband.

To the old we convey our love, we say. I therefore wrote Secretary Cruz about the matters. There was no response either.

I wonder now whether I'd still receive my collectibles from PVAO under this regime or if I'll have to wait for the new government to give me justice.

—GRACE VELASQUEZ-LAWSON, 2nd Street, Tolentino Ville, Batong Malake Los Baños City 4110 Philippines

Letters

Helpless, hopeless, going nowhere

WITH THE ONGOING POLITICAL turmoil, one can't help but feel resigned to the fact that the country is going nowhere. Despite the glowing economic statistics being batched about by the government, the life of the average Filipino has not really improved.

In this country, the fact is, the rich become richer while the poor become poorer; there is no opportunity for the poor to make their lives better. Employment is not a panacea or a desert life. The salary of the ordinary employee is not enough to support an adult person, much less a family with law subsidy age children. Hard work is laudable; it cannot elevate the poor from their low socio-economic condition. It is an accident that most Filipinos, ill-prone to hard work, will rather work abroad, serve menial if such a move would mean enriching their profession.

I regret being hopeless with my situation. The chaotic country taking place make me feel even more hopeless about our children's future. I do not care anymore what happens as long as take-gets is all in the pros government will improve the lives of Filipinos like me, who are working hard but to ends under the present government.

—ALBERT BACANAL
Army_76@yahoo.com

Bishops on the side of the people

POVERTY CONTINUES TO BE the heaviest burden our people have. This was among the most important concerns raised by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) last Jan. 29 in their pastoral statement.

The bishops also declared their opposition to large scale mining, Charter change and the No-El when.

Meanwhile, 12st-day propaganda Gloc-9, Jose Abarentos say the bishops are misinformed on the Cha-cha; they insist that Cha-cha is not being pushed because the campaign has been going on for "many, many years." The Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines initiated the effort in 1999 and when the 13th and 12th Congresses tackled proposals to amend the Constitution. (PDI, 2/13/06)

The campaign may have been going on for many, many years, but Abarentos et alia of Malacañang's mouthpieces cannot significantly deny that the campaign for constitutional revision is an initiative of the government people, and not a response to a public clamor. If the people were truly part of the Cha-cha consolidation, the proposed amendments would never be acceptable to the people who are clamoring for decent jobs, just wages, genuine land reform and other progress changes long lamented by Cha-cha advocates.

Coming the Ramos presidency the Church and citizens' groups rejected Cha-cha because the public would not agree to "term extension" favoring individual politicians and to the deletion of provisions protecting national patrimony and sovereignty.

Shall we allow Sheik Macapagal-Arroyo to stay an extended term despite the want of trust and abuse on her presidency? Can we support the amendments that will further provide the residency, i.e., the 15% provision and foreign ownership of real industries? Today, the national sovereignty and patrimony are being grossly violated by the current regime, whose economic, political and military policies—such as deregulation, liberalization and privatization, and the continuing presence of US troops in the Philippines in the guise of military exercises—are trampling on the Constitution.

The government will be continually challenged to address the root causes of the people's poverty which has triggered such tragedies as the Ultra stampede. Surely, the poor will become more vocal, militant and nationally powerful unless the government does give foreign investors and the country's rich reasonable the upper hand.

We therefore thank the bishops for their strong stance against the evils plaguing the country and the evil plans of the powers-that-be. We support them for listening to the poor, and for speaking and acting on their behalf. The poor are clamoring for fundamental changes that will liberate them from the bondage of poverty—i.e., changes that will guarantee the provision of quality basic services, the advancement of genuine land reform, and the creation of decent jobs for the poor.

—ARIT MINA
secretary general,
Promotion of Church People's Response
SCEP Compound, 475 Edsa,
Quezon City

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Toppling the chief to solve a problem

THE SIDE OF WISDOM which prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a state of emergency is another wake-up call for us Filipinos.

Yet, this flow is that had the state of the Philippines reached such a recommendation 20 years after Edsa I. Its anniversary offered us an opportunity to learn from what happened before and use the lessons of the past as our guide in the future.

Edsa I captivated the world's imagination because of its uniqueness. It showed that political change without violence is possible.

The two and hope, gladness and unity of the Filipino people are the same now as they were 20 years ago. The plight of the poor continues to tug at our hearts. And the call for social justice and for a more equitable distribution of wealth remains strident and urgent.

A key difference in the ambiance, both economic and social, there, the "social question," discussed in various documents of the Magisterium of the Church, was for us but help for us to be free. We are not capable of living it today and just "Hanrahan for action."

A 'wh' are interdependent. If our Filipino brothers and sisters are hungry—if their need is decent wages—it is not for the rich to be planning a "diversion kind of chemo—that those of us who have more should not love to we can give more. I think this is called "Christian charity."

There is no room for tit-for-tat between the various sectors and no room for one sector to be left behind. It will not be so much a question of who is the "best person to lead" (this would ignore the complexity of the problem) as it is a question of how and structure of leadership can best promote the values and aim for them.

This is quite disconcerting—to see the basic People Power Edsa I not toppling one person from power will solve a problem of such complexity.

—DIOSCORO ESTEBAN
dioscoro.esteban@dlsu.edu.ph

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and pictures by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Tejeron and Mercado Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to this 897-4743, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or e-mail number for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, March 14, 2006
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TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Linggoy Alcuaz arrested in QC

By DJ Yap

A FORMER CAMPAIGNER FOR THE late presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday cited political harassment after he was arrested for a malversation case in Quezon City.

Linggoy Alcuaz, who acted as for the revolutionary president of PEJ Pelaconvo Brigade, was arrested based on a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Lisa Tolentino Grulla of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 93.

The arrest order was dated March 8. Bail was set at P48,000.

Alcuaz said he'd rather be jailed than post bail, saying his arrest was part of a crackdown on enemies of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Judge to resume Subic rape case hearing

4 US soldiers expected to face accuser in court

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

FOUR UNITED STATES MARINES CHARGED with rape and their accuser, a 22-year-old Filipina, are expected to face each other in court shortly after the judge handling the case announced yesterday he planned to issue this week an order setting an arraignment.

Judge Renato Dilag of the regional trial court in Olongapo City said he would resume hearing of the case as the Department of Justice resolved the end of its 60-day review of the conclusion charging the servicemen with rape with conspiracy.

The order, which caused the deferment of the hearing for almost two months, has to be finished on March 20.

The arraignment requires the accused, whose ages range from 20 years to 25 years, to appear before the side of Dilag, listen to the formal charges as they are read to them and plead "guilty" or "not guilty." Pre-trial and trial follow.

"I can't wait. I don't want to waste time," Dilag said, referring to the need to hear the two-year span set by the Philippine-US Visiting Forces Agreement to conclude judicial proceedings.

The complainant, a native of Zamboanga City in the first Filipino ever being her complaint in court since the VFA came into force in 1999 and allowed the consumption of war games between Filipinos and American troops.

She claimed to have been raped on May 2, 2005 inside a moving van rented by the servicemen who were participants in "Balikatan 02-05" exercises at the Subic Bay Freeport.

In the previous three days, prosecutor Subic and Clark military bases, US military personnel charged with offenses underwent court-martial, and not tried by Philippine courts.

The case has become contentious as Philippine legislators and Dilag battled for custody and jurisdiction over the servicemen.

On Jan. 26, Dilag recalled the arrest warrant on Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpenter and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis after the US Embassy in Manila belatedly acknowledged custody of the men and promised their appearance at the embassy compound.

The Jan. 26 ruling that would surrender jurisdiction over the five soldiers after their arraignment.

Do People Talk Behind Your Back?

[illegible]

Meralco customers now enjoy lower rates

By Abigail L. Ho

CUSTOMERS OF THE MANILA ELECTRIC Co. are now enjoying rates that are lower by 8.23 centavos per kilowatt hour (kWh) on the average due to the higher dispatch by the distribution utility's independent power producers (IPPs).

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco explained that Meralco IPPs First Gas Power Corp., through its subsidiaries First Gen Hydro Power Corp., Hedcor Inc. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. (QPPL), were dispatching power at higher levels as there was not much water to fuel the National Power Corp.'s hydropower plants last month compared to December or January.

In dispatching power from various power plants all over the country, the system operator — the National Transmission Corp. — considers the combination that will result in the lowest cost to consumers.

In December, for example, Francisco said, Meralco's IPPs were dispatching power at less than 75 percent of the plants' capacities as the customer rates that month made the system operator decide to dispatch more power from Napocor's hydropower plants.

Hydropower entails the least cost to generate.

But with lower rains in February, Francisco said the system operator decided to dispatch the QPPL plant at the 775 percent level and the First Gen plants at the 1% percent level.

Considering economies of scale, the power produced by a generation plant runs less per kWh when more of it is produced at any given time.

The higher dispatch by the IPPs, therefore, reduced overall generation cost from the three plants to P4.6286 per kWh in February from P4.9378 per kWh the previous month, a difference of 24.92 centavos per kWh.

Associated transmission charges or the cost entailed in delivering power from the generation plants to Meralco's system, also decreased from 66.02 centavos per kWh in January to 65.43 centavos per kWh last month.

Overall, the cost of power from the IPPs, including associated power delivery, went down to P5.3126 in February from P5.5600 the previous month.

Comparing the rate of power sourced from Napocor and the Meralco IPPs, it cost Meralco 68.35 centavos per kWh less to buy power from the IPPs than from Napocor in the February supply month on which the March bills were based.

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Magsaysay's 49th death anniversary on March 17

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF PRESIDENT RAMON Magsaysay will mark the 49th death anniversary on March 17 with a wreath-laying at his tomb at North Cemetery in Manila to be followed by a Mass at 7:30 a.m. to be officiated by Fr. Orlando Mesia, SCJ.

In Castillejos, Zambales, Magsaysay's hometown, a Mass will be said at St. Nicholas parish church and other local churches. Flowers will be laid at his monuments in the town plaza and at the Magsaysay ancestral home, according to acting Mayor Enrique Garcia.

In the evening, Director Jesse Vicente Magsaysay of the Iloilo Bay Metropolitan Authority will be the guest of honor in a cultural show to be staged by students of Jesus Magsaysay High School and St. Nicholas Academy and hosted by the Department of Education.

In Cebu, the annual trek dubbed Pagbalikdan ni Magsaysay (Magsaysay's Return/Magsaysay's will kick off at 10 a.m. with a Mass at the Magsaysay Shrine on Mt. Manunggal, the mountain where the presidential plane crashed Mt. Pinatubo crashed shortly after takeoff from the Cebu airport.

Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia will lead in the wreath-laying ceremony that will follow the Mass.

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PBSP starts search for best business plan to help poor combat poverty

THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE [illegible] FOR the most promising business plans to help poor communities fight poverty.

With prizes ranging from P175,000 to P1.4 million, the Business in Development (BiD) Network is inviting entries for the Business in Development Challenge through its local partner, the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). Deadline for the first round is March 20, 2006.

The BiD Network is the first on-line community to stimulate and support poverty reduction through entrepreneurship in poor countries.

Now on its second year, the BiD Challenge Market consists of two rounds aimed to its website www.bidchallenge.org.philippines for the first round, the participants must submit a 3-page business plan. For the second round, proponents of the 75 best plans must submit a comprehensive business plan.

Last year, two Philippine entries were adjudged winners in the BiD Challenge Market.

A total of 752 business plans were submitted last year online to the BiD network, with 57 coming from the Philippines. The winners were chosen and awarded up to 20,000 euros to start their businesses or implement pilot programs.

Business plans are evaluated based on the participants' drive to start the business, solid business concept, short and long-term contribution to the Millennium Development Goal of poverty reduction, and quality of marketing plans.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 14, 2006
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Is 1:10, 16-20
Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees have the right to teach and explain the Law of Moses, so you should do and obey everything they tell you to do. But don't do what they do. They tell others to do things, but they themselves don't lift a finger to help them. They do everything in order to be seen by people. So they wear very wide fringes on their clothes and long pieces of cloth on their arms, and they like the best seats at banquets and the most important places in the synagogues. They enjoy the fine places in stores and interest even in the synagogues, and being greeted in the marketplaces and being called 'Master' by the people.

"But you, do not let yourselves be called Master because you have only one Master, and all of you are brothers and sisters. Nor should you call anyone on earth 'father,' because you have only one Father, he who is in heaven. Nor should you be called 'leaders,' because Christ is the only leader for you. Let the greatest among you be the servant of all. For whoever makes himself great shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be made great."

Commentary:

We too are like the people of Judea and Jerusalem, sometimes far out of touch in need of being washed clean. Make justice your aim: defend the wronged, hear the orphan's plea and defend the widow. The way to call for forgiveness and heaven is to do what is right. Let us call on the name with the justice they have been denied by our unfeeling. Jesus tells us here we are to obey the words of Scriptures but not necessarily to imitate those who teach them. If we have been self-righteous, hypocritical, self-centered and proud they are not to be imitated. We are to follow God our Father and Jesus our Brother who we contact on our brothers as we are to contribute to our wrongdoing.

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NEW US ENVOY The new United States Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie A. Kenney, at left, poses with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Philippine Ambassador to the US Albert del Rosario shortly after her swearing-in ceremony in Washington D.C. She is expected to arrive in Manila this month.

Imelda may recover gems in out-of-court settlement

By Alcuin Papa

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA MARCOS may be able to recover some, if not all, of her fabulous jewelry if the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) pushes through with its plan to strike a compromise with her.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said an out-of-court settlement, on the jewelry returned to the tune's $24 million, would be a good start in the government's attempt to fast-track the recovery of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth.

He said the PCGG needed to come up with practical solutions to the cases involving the Marcos couple's because the "disappearance of the jewelry" had discouraged their resolution.

"I wish this (jewelry issue) would be part of an overarching reconciliation between the government and Mrs. Marcos. Is there a way that government could have a comprehensive reconciliation with [her]?" Abcede said.

"Maybe we (PCGG and Imelda) could sit down and talk about it. How much would you want to surrender, how many percent would go to the government and how much a penalty, something like that," he said.

Last year, the PCGG was set to auction off the Marcos jewelry collection, composed of pieces from the couple's personal properties like Malacañang Palace, Center and Harry Winston, but the former first lady went to court to stop the sale.

In response, Abcede said the courts had already ruled in favor of the government on the issue of ownership of the collection, most of which is stored in Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. vaults.

Of late, the PCGG has been actively exploring the option of out-of-court settlements with some Marcos associates. This was the stick the PCGG took with regard to the loan guaranteed companies of tuipan Lucio Tan and the multi-billion peso diamond hoard.

"While this seems like an idea, if the government has to buy peace with Mrs. Marcos, why not? The same principle applies to other Marcos cronies whose properties are under sequestration," Abcede said.

But, he said, President Macapagal-Arroyo herself must initiate the compromise with Marcos.

"I don't know where to start over again. I think the initiation of this overarching reconciliation would be the highest level of government. Of course, the PCGG could play a role. But on how to go about it, I don't know because this is a very complex problem," Abcede said, hinting that Marcos had seen "before" in a compromise.

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Palace to create 'green' agency

By Blanche S. Rivera

MALACAÑANG WILL create another government arm to enforce environmental laws.

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes said President Macapagal-Arroyo would issue an executive order creating the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which Reyes also will head.

The EPA's job will be to enforce environmental laws, which Reyes insisted would not overlap with the functions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"The EPA will be under the Office of the President so it can more easily access the services of people under the different departments, especially for illegal logging," Reyes said in a press briefing.

He said the EPA would tap the licensed services of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, and even the Land Transportation Office to ensure compliance with laws like the Clean Air Act and the Forestry Law.

The appointment of Reyes, a former AFP chief of staff and defense chief, as the DENR's new master is to send a strong message that the government was serious in enforcing neglected environmental laws.

"The problem has always been enforcement. This [creation of EPA] will provide more muscle [to enforcement]," Reyes said.

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Pacquiao on the ropes

By Gerry Lirio

WILL THERE BE 'HIMWORKS' OR PURGUE tonight?

Boxing icon Manny Pacquiao will be put on the defensive at a rebuilding-but-no-face-count-none meeting today with a former lover and the son the boxing hero had allegedly fathered.

A hearing of the case, filed by Jeanne Rose Bacosa to seek recognition and support for her son, will be held at the office of the Quezon City assistant prosecutor.

If Pacquiao keeps his word and shows up, it would be the first face-to-face meeting between the headlined parties after nearly a year.

The meeting has been set at 1:2 p.m. at the office of the Assistant Prosecutor Ma. Loreta Gaschling, but another announcement said it would be at 2 p.m., an obvious ploy to avoid the expected swarm of mediamen.

Bacosa, Pacquiao's former girlfriend, together with her son are expected to report to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City where they plan to undergo a DNA test with or without Gaschling's consent.

The results will be submitted to Gaschling, apparently in reference the demand for Pacquiao to undergo the same test.

But sources claim the BIR case, Bacosa said the

PACQUIAO, A-12

Money-lending invaders

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Pacquiao on the ropes

From page A11

meeting is very vital because the handled instincts (or "taboo jaggings," as the pair is of both father and son during their new-to-wonder should speak volumes on her case against Barquez.

"That we have to see," said Bismonte Mona Rodriguez who added Pacquiao is definitely expected to show up in today's hearing.

Pacquiao happened to be in Hong Kong with his family when the first meeting on the case was held last month.

Barquez, 24, has claimed that she and Pacquiao were sweethearts for two years and that their affair have bear affair she gave birth to a boy in January 2004.

Pacquiao had denied her claims, but vowed to provide the boy financial support if a DNA test would prove he was the biological father.

Barquez said Pacquiao has failed to alleged violation of Republic Act No. 9262, which protects women from violence, and to seek support for the boy.

Why AFP Chief Senga vacillated

IF THE REPORT IN THE Inquirer by Mr. Jarvoso last Sunday were true (and I have no doubt it was), then President Macapagal-Arroyo is vacillating on a right topic.

She's in the mercy of the military and she can called civil society. The country nearly woke up being led by a military junta, according to Zamora. A "caretaker council" would have taken over the government from Mr. Estrada. Zamora said to her recent meeting "military sources." The council would have been headed by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

Senga, however, has vehemently denied the report). I can see many basic for reports that Senga vacillated during the crucial moments. Senga was recommended by the "Hyatt 5," headed by former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman. The Hyatt 5 were former Cabinet members who broke away from the President in the wake of the "Hello Garci" controversy. Senga is also very close to former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, Former President Cory's sister-in-law. The plot to oust GMA was allegedly hatched at the house of the Cojuangcos.

Tingting's husband, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, allegedly talked to Senga, Gen. Angelo Reyes, chief of the Armed Forces, about the plan once the phone. The plot allegedly fizzled out after Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Senga chief, refused to join. GMA is lucky she has the ever-loyal Armed Presidential Security Group (PSG) chief in command of the biggest major command of the Armed forces. Had Esperon gone along with coup plotters, it would have been the end for the President.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

AMONG those reportedly involved in the plot were former President Cory Aquino and El Shaddai leader Mike Arroyo. Aquino's intentions to joining the plot is less than subtle. She wanted to get back at the President for ignoring her friend's counsel that Gloria Isabela in the harsh during the controversy with its labors. Aquino didn't consider the fact that the same personal, who she had tried to bring her down—Gloria Jose, Congress Secretary and Gen. Esperon were the same fellows taking part in the plot to oust GMA. In short, Cory, a very old, pious woman, is consumed by revenge. What is not understandable is Mike's alleged participation. After practically being fed by the hand by GMA, Velarde could not be satisfied. He probably still wanted more from his "new mother." Through the President's help, Velarde was able to build a multi-billion-peso business empire. Quite a feat for a guy who went bankrupt for a while after he gambled away his money at the casinos.

Hashish oil used in cakes

By Pinpoint C. Ortiz

IF THAT PIECE OF BROWNIE YOU'RE EATing is giving you an unusual high, one of its ingredients might just be hashish oil, according to the Regional Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Operatives of the NBI National Capital Region (NCR) have received information that marijuana farmers in Benguet, Ilocos and Mountain Province have been mixing the plant extract, also called hashish oil, with baked goods like cakes and cookies.

"These farmers reportedly bake the brownies and cakes at the plantations and sell them to Subic, Olongapo, and other areas in the Islands," Special Investigator Rodolfo Celon said during a press conference at the NBI yesterday.

Before the farmers learned to extract hashish oil, they were said to have been using the leaves of the ingredients in baking the "special cakes and brownies," Celon explained.

NBI forensic chemist Aida Magdoo said consumers of baked goods with hashish oil could experience "more potent effects because of the products' more concentrated drug source."

Magdoo said they tried to extract oil from the marijuana plant several years ago. "We discovered that it took a lot of plants to extract 100 ml of hashish oil," the forensic chemist said.

Magdoo explained that five to 10 kilos of marijuana were needed to extract 100 ml of the oil.

Celon said the hashish extract runs P3,000 per gram.

The NBI's announcement followed the recent arrest of Hans Langgoo, an alleged marijuana supplier from Ilocos, in a law removal in Sampaloc, Manila.

Regional Director Reef Lasala, NBI-NCR-chief, said Langgoo was arrested during a buy-bust operation conducted by joint operatives of the Intelligence Drugs Task Force and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Seized from him was a sack containing 15 cardboard boxes of the suspected goods.

The bricks were confiscated with cookies and pastries to avoid detection, Lasala said.

During interrogation, Langgoo admitted that he has been supplying marijuana bricks to drug pushers in Metro Manila for almost two years.

According to the report, each marijuana brick sells for P1,000 if directly purchased from him.

But the bricks were sold for as high as P5,000 to P6,000 each on the streets, Lasalla said.

Langgoo identified a drug trafficker based in Mountain Province and Benguet as his source of marijuana bricks.

The suspect, who is now detained at the Manila City Jail, faces charges for violating the Comprehensive Drugs Act of 2002.

TUP to probe student's death due to hazing

By Tina G. Santos

THE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines (TUP) will conduct its own probe into the death of one of its students, Clark Angelo Ibiñeda, in alleged hazing rites.

Prof. Eduardo Deoyanan, director of the school's Office of Public Affairs, told the Inquirer that TUP president Dr. Godofredo Gallegos has already instructed the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) to conduct a separate investigation "on the proper action could be taken."

He added that College also not recently with officials and staffers of the OSA, the Office of Guidance and Counseling and the Medical Unit to discuss Ibiñeda's case and come up with measures to prevent a repetition of the incident.

"The school administration is taking all the necessary action against the unlawful acts of certain elements and groups in the campus not duly registered and accredited by the university," Deoyanan said.

'Case a university concern'

He added that the TUP community has condemned the incident, saying that although it happened outside the campus, "our full support to solve the case a university concern because its students were involved and it chooses that justice be served to the victim."

Ibiñeda, 18, a mechanical engineering student, was killed in what police believed were hazing rites by the university's chapter of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity conducted in a vacant lot near the Dagonoy Street, Barangay San Isidro, Makati City.

He sustained severe contusions and was declared dead upon arrival at the Manila Sanitarium Hospital at 3:45 p.m. on March 3.

Apart from their independent efforts, Deoyanan said they were also closely coordinating with Makati policemen investigating the case.

Fire in Pasig City leaves 36 families homeless

By Edwin C. Tamayo Jr.

THIRTEEN FAMILIES LOST THEIR HOUSES in a two-hour fire which broke out in a crowded community in Pasig City early yesterday morning.

The alleged culprit: an unattended candle beside a two-story house where the electricity had been disconnected for over a year, fire bill collector Norberto said.

Nobody was injured but over 14 million worth of property was damaged in the fire which razed 15 homes.

Operation witnesses, Norberto said Pelita Baras, 75, lit a candle at about 2 a.m. yesterday on the upper floor of their two-story house in Purok Real in Barangay Bagong Ilog.

But while the candle was still burning, Baras fell asleep.

Two hours later, the other members of Baras's family woke up to find that the second floor was already on fire.

The fire spread because the house was made of light materials, the fire quickly spread to adjacent houses, including a seven-door apartment.

Radio officer 1021 Ernani San Agustin said the fire was put out at 6:30 a.m.

Fire officials had advised house owners to be careful in using candles and not leave them unattended.

METROBRIEFS

Two-day jobs fair

AROUND 1,000 jobs awaiting will be offered to skilled workers and graduates of higher school and college courses during a two-day international job fair at the Manila City Hall. Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna said the jobs are to be held on March 17 and 18 at the Manila City Council Session Hall. She pointed out the activities is only reserved for the City residents from other cities can apply on the following day, starting at 1 p.m. Those who would be selected will be sent to the United States, United Kingdom, Africa, Middle East and Asia. Applicants should bring identification cards and a barangay certification showing that they are bonafide residents of Manila. **Margaret C. Ortiz**

Bus runs over accountant

A SIX-YEAR-OLD accountant died when he was hit by a bus while crossing Ayala Avenue at the corner of Real Drive in Makati yesterday morning. Ana-ries Lontoc, a resident of Bicutan, Laguna, was killed instantly when the driver of the Fermina Express bus (RFR 925) ran over his body. He was brought to the Pamanata Filipinas on JP Rizal Avenue for autopsy. The bus driver, Bienvenido S. Flores, 46, of Pasay City, was temporarily detained for investigation while working investigators examining a traffic in the area. **Sara F. Delamento**

In trouble for unfair competition

A CHINESE national is now facing charges before the Manila Regional Trial Court for allegedly selling fake instant oil machines. William Ong, owner of Hong Kuat Marketing located in Ilaya Park, Dongdong City, was formally arrested earlier surrendered to the Intellectual Property Office and representative of LF Industrial Sales, authorized dealer of "smartcar" clones. Yap said Ong, along with nine others, has been using the brand name Yamada in selling fake industrial equipment like welding machines and other power tools. **Tina C. Santos**

Deadline for nominations extended

THE DEADLINE for nominations for the UP-based Parlist (1999) has been extended to March 15. The award recognizes Filipino media practitioners in media/print, radio, television, film and new media) who have excelled in their profession and performed with the highest level of professionalism, integrity in the service of public service. For this year, the award will honor six outstanding practitioners in radio. Eligible for the awards are ultra-Ilocano who have excelled as a station manager, producer, director, writer, announcer, reporter, etc. Only nominations from institutions will be accepted for this award. Nomination forms and awards guidelines are available at the UP CMC Office of Extension and External Relations. Interested parties may call 9208883 for details.

Seminar-workshop for librarians

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists is holding a seminar-workshop on "Cataloging and Indexing Syriac: An Archival and Bibliotheca" starting today and March 15. The seminar is being held at the 19th floor of the Philippine Social Science Center (PSSC) Building on Commonwealth Ave. in Diliman, Quezon City. For reservations, inquiries, please call Lyrie at 2340944, Yenger 9208883 and Gary 9818172/9218.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Procurement of Management Consultancy for the Cost-Based Tariff Analysis and Development Project

1. The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), through its 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the PPA Board of Directors intends to apply the sum of PHP12,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the Procurement of Management Consultancy for Cost-Based Tariff Analysis and Development Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The PPA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) for the Procurement of Management Consultancy for the Cost-Based Tariff Analysis and Development Project. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs and letters dated 31 March 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Office of the Vice President, Finance and Administration, Bonifacio Drive, 20 Muelle de San Francisco, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila and must be accompanied by their SOQ in accordance with the requirements specified below. The deadline for the submission of the LOI and SOQ is on April 6, 2006 not later than 1:00 PM in the above address. Late LOIs and SOQs will not be considered.

3. The Board Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC) shall base on the short list of consultants on the evaluation of the SOQs and may invite all those short listed consultants to a pre-bid conference on the processing of Republic Act (RA) 9184, its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of 2006. The short list of consultants shall be made on April 13, 2006 at 2:00 PM at the above address. Only the short listed consultants will be invited to submit bids.

4. The Short List of Consultants shall be based on the short list of consultants on the evaluation of the SOQs and may invite all those short listed consultants to a pre-bid conference on the processing of Republic Act (RA) 9184, its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of 2006. The short list of consultants shall be made on April 13, 2006 at 2:00 PM at the above address. Only the short listed consultants will be invited to submit bids.

5. Interested consultants may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address below on April 6, 2006 and from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents shall be acquired by interested consultants upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PHP1,000.00 (All Philippines).

7. The contract shall be completed within eight (8) months.

8. The PPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

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62 killed as 6 bombs explode in Baghdad; reprisals feared

BAGHDAD—[BAG SHOTSHED] ONE OF IT'S worst days of bloodshed this year as 62 people were killed and at least 200 wounded, many of them in a six car bomb attack on a Baghdad Shiite neighborhood, sparking fresh fears of sectarian violence.

The blood-letting came as Iraqi politicians rushed home after opening efforts parliament on Thursday in a bid to end sectarian efforts to appoint the political cronies and further inflame communal tensions between the majority Shiites and the historically dominant Sunnis.

The deadliest attack happened in the poor district of Sadr City, currently Shiite quarter in the east of the city, as people went about their late afternoon shopping.

Within minutes, two cars exploded in the Shiite market, followed by one at Kurayr market, a Shiite area in Kadhimiyah and one in Dogher market, the interior ministry said.

A seventh car bomb was defused. The rash of bombings in Sadr City Automobile bore of the pro-

(In red wounded 204 others, the ministry said.

Authorities immediately appealed for blood donors and rallied on police to increase their presence around Sunni mosques for fear of retaliation.

"There are continuous efforts by the terrorists to provoke sectarian conflict so there is a need to deal with the threat and to support calm and form a government of national unity," US ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters earlier.

The bombing of a revered Shiite mosque in Samarra, north of Baghdad, on Feb. 22 led to a series of reprisal attacks against Sunni mosques in the country opposed to be spiraling towards civil war.

The latest bombings targeted a Shiite neighborhood, home to more than one million people and a bastion of radical cleric Moqtada Sadr's militia, which has accused of carrying out renewed attacks against Sunnis.

In the 12 days that followed the Samarra bombing, more than 400 civilians were killed and 92 Sunni mosques attacked, of which eight were destroyed, the US military said.

Authorities immediately appealed for blood donors and rallied on police to increase their presence around Sunni mosques for fear of retaliation.

The onslaught came hours after politicians, who had been postponing the opening of parliament because of a dispute over who should be prime minister in the state-based coalition government, met Khalilzad brought the date forward to next Sunday to Thursday.

The opening of parliament—elected three months ago—was advanced "to indicate that things need to move on a faster pace," and to that in turning defeat clash with a Shiite leaders, Sunni leaders Hashim Al-Mahdawi told reporters after his meeting in a meeting of top Iraqi politicians.

The Shiite-led government from them could be yet more attacks against Shiite pilgrims as they return to the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf in the south of the country in the coming week for Shiite religious festival Arbaeen.

Meanwhile, the chief prosecutor in the trial of Saddam Hussein urged that the ex-president be swiftly hanged if found guilty. AFP

Brain drain as academics become targets of attacks

BAGHDAD—[AAR AL-SEETA]—Dr. a chemistry professor at Baghdad University, survived a car bomb attack on early February, walking away unscathed although several of his guards were wounded.

He knows many other universities and academics who were not so fortunate.

"It is a big loss when we lose a professor or a scientist because they are the elite of society," said Mufleh, who was unaware of higher education under former president Saddam Hussein. "It is too hard to replace those we lose."

Some 102 Iraqi university professors and academics have been killed in violence since the US-led invasion in 2003. Another 83 senior academics have been kidnapped or suffered attacks on their lives, the Association of University Lecturers in Iraq told a news conference last week.

But Iraq stars and women of learning are concerned about academic freedom, as is true that gifted minds emigrate in the various world. In Baghdad, the quality is not yet.

Those who do survive a bombing, gun battle or not released after a kidnapping rarely choose a second attempt, causing a brain drain of leading intellectuals who are vital for educating the Iraqi professionals of tomorrow and rebuilding the country.

"Targeting professors destroys the higher education system in Iraq, which in turn destroys other sectors of society," Dr. Abdulmuttalib al-Hashimi Fahid, a professor in the chemistry faculty at Baghdad University. Reuters

MOTAWA'S Queen Elizabeth II looks at memorabilia held by welcomers after the Commonwealth Day Service in Sydney, Australia March 13. REUTERS

Queen Liz's visit revives Australia republic debate

SYDNEY—[REMEDY OF AUstralians politely welcomed Britain's Queen Elizabeth to Sydney's Opera House on Monday to her 15th visit to Australia revived a bubbling debate over whether the country should become a republic.

Retired banks and thousand tourists waved paper Australian flags as the 79-year-old monarch opened a new section of the landmark Opera House, her first celebrating of a few days visit.

But her presence has added heat to the debate over whether Australia should replace her with a home-grown head of state. A poll of more than 147,000 readers taken by www.nineMSN.com.au showed that 57 percent wanted the country to become a republic.

"We're here more because of the hype and the celebrity factor rather than because she's queen of our country," said Karen Mech, who was at the Opera House with her young daughter.

Others animated as were more supportive of ties to the Queen Elizabeth, who made a host great words, praise and something her.

"She's got her grandkids," said 20-year-old Abet Murray.

"She's very short," Murray said.

Australia remains a constitutional monarchy 218 years after British settlers first arrived, with Britain's monarch as its head of state, represented in Canberra by a governor-general.

The queen has the right to veto any Australian law, a power which has never been used in the 105-years since Australia was federated as a nation independent of Britain. Reuters

WorldBriefs

UK firms got billions from Iraq war, says report

LONDON—British businesses have profited by at least 5.5 billion pounds ($9.5 billion) since coalition forces toppled Saddam Hussein three years ago, The Independent newspaper reported Monday. Thanks to the "war dividend" 63 British companies have benefited from contracts and investments in Iraq, according to a joint investigation by independent watchdog Corporate Watch and The Independent. The amount included could be the tip of the iceberg, according to the study, because many companies prefer to keep their Iraq relationship secret. The companies involved include arms manufacturers Swiss, banks, PR consultancies, urban planning experts, oil companies, architects, offices and energy soft drinks bottles, could be paper which has always opposed the war in Iraq. AFP

Japan princess meets Mickey Mouse

PRINCESS Masako and Princess Aiko REUTERS

TOKYO—[Liverpool, it was the joy. On Monday it was Disneyland. Japan's 4-year-old Princess Aiko has been getting a weekly dose of life outside the palace and what children her age go through as she prepares to start nursery school in April. Aiko, a big fan of the animated sport of tennis, according to her father Crown Prince Naruhito, appeared at Disneyland if not scared, by the welcome she received by the Magic Kingdom's cartoons, Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Dressed in a pale blue coat and gray trousers, Aiko shrank back and clung to her mother Crown Princess Masako, when the characters approached to shake hands. She later received other companions enough to wave to waiting crowds. Aiko beat along on some outdoor rides with her mother, but the princess was adapting to court life. Reuters

'Don't ask, don't tell'

WASHINGTON—Advocates for repealing the ban on military service by openly gay men and lesbians say they hope that their cause may be bolstered by the Supreme Court decision barring universities from keeping military recruiters off their campuses in protest of that ban. The unanimous ruling last week upheld a law requiring colleges to allow military recruiters access to students that is separate statutes given to other employers, or risk forfeiting some federal grants. The ruling let any university appeal to strike down a policy calling for this government to be openly gay public, including Yale Today, which said the ban was "unfair and hurtful." The Washington Post, which said "a combination of bigotry and morality keeps the gay ban in place." The Baltimore Sun, said the Supreme. "The other thing to this decision is that it has focused attention on the unfortunate issue of the so-called 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," said Elsie Walls, a spokesperson for the Servicemen's Legal Defense Network, a group that assistance discrimination against gay people in the military. AFP

Apology to victim leads to arrest of thief

TOKYO—A letter of apology sent to a robbery victim resulted in not for a man who police investigating the case suspected had been the burglar thing. $140 television said the man had pocketed two days after the house to a 79-year-old woman in the town of Misaki, another house, and stole 16,000 yen ($120) after threatening her with a knife. He later wrote the victim a letter saying he was sorry and asking that she tell police he had returned the money "and either things" and police in the area. A 61-year-old construction worker who does was the victim, $140 said. The man, who has confessed, is bound to child, it said. 1980-84 and say how the handwriting was linked to the man. A local police official declined to give details, saying accomplices was still under way. Reuters

130,000-hectare wildfire in Texas

AUSTIN—A raging 500,000-acre (130,000-hectare) wildfire in northern Texas was blamed for six deaths, including two victims who were trying to escape more than two kilometers, officials said. four people died Sunday in a multi-vehicle crash on an icy Interstate highway when the fast-moving smoke reduced visibility, the Texas Forest Service said. It's possible more people died, Ben Shepard of Amarillo said. But town of Borger, last people died trying to escape a giant fire that consumed their home, Jim Lapp, Mike Galloway said. The blaze—which made its way the fires that blanketed much of the state's panhandle, destroying dozens of structures and killed three people since December and early January—forced the evacuation overnight town, and Warren Bainsberg, a spokesperson for the Texas Forest Service. AP

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More questions over Milosevic death

THE HAGUE—AN AUTOPSY HAS CONCLUDED that Slobodan Milosevic died of a heart attack, but his sudden death in UN custody on Saturday has raised intriguing questions, notably what sparked the former Yugoslav strongman's heart attack and where he will be buried.

It was also unknown whether Milosevic's flamboyant widow Mira Markovic would be allowed to return to the Hague to claim his remains from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), where he was on trial for genocide and war crimes.

An autopsy performed Sunday pinpointed "myocardial infarction" as the immediate cause of Milosevic's death, but an ICTY spokesperson said it was "necessary" to rule out poisoning, as charged by his colleagues...and the ex-president himself in a letter revealed after his death.

Milosevic's legal adviser Zdenko Tomanovic said Sunday that the former strongman had addressed a letter to the Russian foreign ministry saying that he feared he was being poisoned after receiving a medical report indicating large amounts of a drug for tuberculosis or leprosy in his blood.

"Milosevic pointed out that during the last five years he had never used any such antibiotics, especially since he had never had leprosy or tuberculosis or any kind of infectious disease except for the flu," Tomanovic said.

A Serbian pathologist assisted and two Serbian observers were present at the autopsy.

The latter stated: finding put paid to the hypothesis of suicide entertained even by ICTY chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte, who said in an interview published Sunday: "He could have done it as a last act of defiance towards us. Perhaps he did commit suicide."

Earlier she stated: "He said, although naturally it is possible, that he died unexpectedly without the doctors noticing that his health had suddenly worsened."

Milosevic's wife Mirjana Markovic, known as Mira, is believed to have been living in Russia since fleeing Serbia in 2002. She has been charged by Belgrade with abuse of his office and there is an international arrest warrant issued in her name.

Spokesperson Olivier Vernaz said the Hague Tribunal was the custodian of the remains, the ICTY in Moscow which is why we contacted our embassy there."

Serbian President Boris Tadic on Monday said he would not pardon Markovic, meaning she would be unable to return home for a funeral ceremony if it is held in Serbia.

Markovic, dubbed the Lady Macbeth of the Balkans, was a power behind the throne of her husband for

A SUPPORTER writes on his voucher portrait of Milosevic. AFP

here career if the case again was lost in Serbia, where she has been indicted on charges of abuse of power.

In an interview published in Serbian newspaper Glosnje Novosti Markovic said that she would prefer Milosevic to be buried in his home town Pozarevac but added she was a "hostage" to the international arrest warrant against her.

Milosevic's funeral passes a conundrum for Serbian authorities, with his family split over where he should be laid to rest and his widow Markovic making unrest if she comes home.

Serbian President Boris Tadic on Sunday ruled out a state funeral saying he believed such an observance would be "completely inappropriate" given Milosevic's role in the bloody Balkans conflicts.

"I know still not decided where my husband will be buried," Markovic told a Serbian newspaper Monday.

"If it was only up to me to decide it would be Pozarevac," a town about 80 km east of Belgrade. But, she said, "I am still the hostage of an international situation." AFP

Bush plans sustained drive against Iran

WASHINGTON—THE ADMINISTRATION OF US President George W. Bush plans for a sustained campaign against the ayatollahs of Tehran that could include regime change, The Washington Post reported Monday.

The newspaper said Bush and his team have been huddling in closed-door meetings on Iran, summoning scholars for advice, running an Iran office in Washington and opening listening posts abroad dedicated to the affairs against Tehran.

The Post said Bush also hoped for the first term between those who advocated more engagement with Iran and those who preferred more confrontation appears to be the second term is the largely settled in favor of the latter, the report said.

Although administration officials do not use the term "regime change" in public, that is effect is the goal they outline as they plan to build resistance in the theocracy, The Post pointed out.

"We do not have a problem with the Iranian people. We want the Iranian people to be free," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in live on testimony last week. "Our problem is with the Iranian regime."

In private meetings, Bush and his advisers have been more explicit, the paper said.

Members of the House Democratic Caucus of caucuses who met with Bush, Vice President Richard Cheney and national security adviser Stephen Hadley, two weeks ago emerged with the impression that the administration has decided to a more robust policy aimed at the Iranian government, according to the Post.

"The message that we received is that they are in favor of organizing the Iranian people from the regime," the paper quotes Samuel Arad-Weiner, an Iranian-American businessman who serves on the Democratic board, as saying. AFP

EXUBERANCE FOR SPRING
Sadhus, or Hindu holy men, celebrate Holi, the festival of colors, in Varanasi, India March 13. The Hindu festival heralds the arrival of spring. AP

Aspirin still tops at cutting risk of heart disease

ATLANTA, GEORGIA—ASPIRIN REMAINS the drug of choice to reduce the risk of heart disease, researchers said here.

Researchers made the conclusion in a study evaluating whether taking aspirin with the blood-thinning drug Plavix diminishes the risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

The study presented here Sunday at the American College of Cardiology's annual congress, found that taking a combination of Plavix and aspirin made little difference and could actually hurt patients, like smokers or diabetics, who are most at risk of developing heart disease.

"The overall findings of this study were negative, but a benefit was seen in patients with established cardiovascular disease — with a modest reduction of the risks," said study co-author Deepak Bhatt.

"There is no reason to use the combination therapy for primary prevention, whereas it might be useful in patients who have already had a heart attack or stroke," said Bhatt, associate director of the Cleveland Clinic Cardiovascular Coordinating Center.

The 28-month study was conducted among 15,600 people more than 45 years old. The study appears in the April 25 edition of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The study showed that there was no significant benefit to adding clopidogrel to aspirin therapy in a wide range of patients. Furthermore, since patients who took clopidogrel had an increased risk of bleeding, the long-term use of combination antiplatelet therapy may not be warranted in most patients. AFP

US newspaper chain agrees to sale

KNIGHT RIDDER, THE SECOND-largest newspaper company in the United States, agreed Sunday night to sell itself for about $4.5 billion in cash and stock to the McClatchy Co., a publishers half its size, according to people involved in the negotiations.

The deal, which is expected to be announced Monday, comes as the newspaper industry is gripped by uncertainty as readers across the country have begun to drift away from printed newspapers.

However, the sale could help an eager some investors who are nervous about the values of newspaper companies because Knight Ridder commanded a premium of about 20 percent for its shares from the time it put itself up for sale in November under pressure from shareholders who were unhappy with performance of its stock. New York Times News Service

A SMI LANGAH child is packed by an African Grey Parrot at a zoo at Dehiwala near Colombo. AP

First case of bird flu in Afghanistan

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—THE first case of bird flu has been discovered in Afghanistan and there's a high risk that more could soon if not be the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus, a UN agency said Monday.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said five fresh samples from backyard poultry farms in Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad tested positive on Monday for H5, and that tests were under way to discern the subtype.

"There's a high risk that the virus detected is H5N1, but other possibilities remain at this time," an FAO statement issued in Kabul said.

Afghanistan has not reported a case of bird flu before. Last month, the FAO warned that an outbreak was virtually unavoidable and chided the government and donor nations for being slow to prevent it.

The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed or forced the slaughter of tens of millions of chickens and ducks across Asia since 2003, and recently spread to Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Health officials fear H5N1 could evolve into a virus that can be transmitted easily between people and become a global pandemic.

That has not happened yet, but at least 97 people have died from the disease worldwide, two-thirds of them in Indonesia and Vietnam, according to figures by the World Health Organization.

Dr Annabah Dawson, director of the Sustainably and veterinary department of the Afghan agriculture ministry said the tests on the five samples from Afghanistan were undertaken at an FAO laboratory in Italy. Its expected results within 48 hours to determine whether or not H5N1 was present.

The FAO statement said the bird flu samples tested were "associated with high mortality" and the results can be instituted "that a highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in more than one site in Afghanistan." AP

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Cage body up for POC scrutiny

TRINIDAD: Everybody will be notified.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CAN PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL make it to the Doha Asian Games in December?

The question lingered yesterday even after the country's basketball stakeholders expressed optimism the draft of the constitution and by-laws of the new cage body will get the nod of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Philippine Basketball League commissioner Chito Trinidad said the stakeholders are confident of getting the approval of separate committees tasked by the POC to scrutinize the charters of the group which will be simply called "Philippine Basketball."

"It may not be perfect, but I'm sure everybody will be satisfied," Trinidad said. "This is the result of five months of hard work."

The stakeholders will submit the new charter tomorrow, just in time for the deadline set by the POC. The local Olympic body will then publish it to adhere to the resolution of the FIBA, the international basketball federation.

Pilta has given the Philippines until the end of this month to create a new body that will involve all the sport's major stakeholders such as the PBA, PBL, NCAA and UAAP.

However, POC spokesman Jorge Romasanta said the caps of the by-laws will still have to be scrutinized by the executive council during its meeting tomorrow at the Cafe 1 in Makati.

"I don't want to make a comment," Romasanta told the Inquirer in an overseas call from Malaysia. "I haven't seen the draft of the constitution."

The Basketball Association of the Philippines was expelled by the POC last year.

The POC-inspired Philippine Basketball Association, however, failed to get the sanction of the Pilta and the country lost the right to host the sport during the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last December.

Unless the Pilta ban is lifted, the country cannot compete in all international basketball events, including the hosted this December.

La Salle to nix total ban from UAAP events

By Jeannine W. Paye

WHILE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY awaits the verdict of the CHED on the eligibility scandal that rocked the embattled Dennis Andres, school officials plan to nix a move to skip all sports in the league.

In a recent meeting with the university's team managers, executive vice president Fr. Carmelito Quitorgano reportedly said the school will allow the lessons affiliation to suffer the penalty for the inaction of its five basketeers.

La Salle filed last Jan. 23 a one-year leave of absences—only from the team's basketball tournaments—in a bid to rebuild its cage program.

Two weeks later, the UAAP board turned down La Salle's proposal, saying basketball is one of the two compulsory sports in the league.

The board noted, however, that La Salle may still take a break from the league next season, and it's done so, it must file a leave of absence from all 14 sports.

In the same meeting, officials insisted that La Salle should continue in close up drive. The institution adopted last October that it unknowingly fielded two ineligible players—Mark Bonifacio and Tim Cone-Dolino—in the last three seasons.

Sources said Quitorgano "expressed her full support for sports development, since it is an integral part of education."

The same sources said Quitorgano wants the university to maintain its "long-term stature" of having the best sports program in the country.

The league's last finding remains unannounced during the last meeting that the decision and recommendations on the La Salle eligibility scandal will be out this month.

The five-man panel, sources added, had already interviewed several La Salle officials, including Quitorgano and sports development head Bro. Bobby Castagil, FSC.

The committee had also summoned assistant team manager Manny Iniguez and instructor Saul Lacson, who never signed by La Salle as the officials who helped oversee the players' false records.

Bonifacio and Concha-Dolino admitted false enrollment of their Philippine Educational Placement Test, as exam taken in lieu of a high school diploma, to gain entry in college.

PERFECT: Al Pinto puts up a shot against the Aces. GMA NEWS

Caguioa, Peek share RP Cup scoring honors

BARANGAY GINEBRA'S MAVE Caguioa and Coca-Cola's Ali Peek are the point upguards who have something in common.

For one, Caguioa is a gift sallen while Peek is a man of few words.

Both, though, are driven by the same passion which proved crucial for their respective teams in the first week of the Philippine Cup.

The defending champion Gin Kings and the Tigers are on top of the heap with identical 2-0 win-loss slates, mainly due to Caguioa and Peek, who were instrumental in divisions in the PBA Press Corps' Gray Matter Co-Players of the Week for the period March 5-12.

Caguioa opened the Kings' title-retention bid by pouring in a tournament-high 30 points in a 98-81 win over Talk 'N' Text last Wednesday. He followed that up with 23 points and 10 rebounds to drive come-from-behind 98-93 victory over bin. Lucia Realty last Sunday.

It is not by sheer coincidence that Caguioa is putting up such big numbers. He has to live up to expectations made before a nationwide television audience.

"We will walk without clothes in Diliman if Bayawalk says if we don't win the championship," Caguioa declared in a pre-tourney interview on TV5 joined by ABC-5.

Peek, on the other hand, proved a consistent scorer after Coca-Cola coach Bong Ravena urged him to watch an edited tape of the player's shots in the season-opening Fiesta Conference.

"It [the tape] showed what kind of shots I was missing and the ones that were in," Peek recalled. "So I tried to work harder on my shots since then."

Still, nobody expected him to come up with a perfect shooting night from the field last Friday, Lenten of all Lenten's.

"I was not thinking about it," said the Hawaii-born rookie after scoring a game-high 27 points... marked by a perfect 11-for-12 shooting from the perimeter... in the Tigers' 80-69 win over Alaska last Friday.

The two-night big offensive show actually improved Peek's previous all-time record by one shot. He set the previous mark of 11 attempts without a miss on Aug. 1, 2005 while still playing, ironically, for Alaska.

Peek, who registered 21 points and 11 rebounds in a 104-80 win over Air21 last Sunday, was not particularly conscious of the record. Still, other people reminded him about it.

"TPY [comedian reporter] Jason Webb told me about it during the halftime break and during the third quarter (Alaska's) Mic Babao asked me, 'Where are you going to take, sana?'" Peek said.

"I'm just happy we came out with a win," he added.

BIG games by Mark Caguioa

VILORIA

Viloria gets Elorde Golden Belt award

MIGHTY FILIPINA, THE SECOND World Boxing Council light flyweight champion, will be honored with the Flash Elorde Golden Belt award during the 16th Banquet of Champions of the Go Negosyo Awards on March 23 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Viloria, 25, will be the first boxer to receive the award after he won the WBC title from Iole Oreta in September last year and defended it against Jose Antonio Aguirre in Las Vegas last month.

Laura Elorde, widow of the late Flash Elorde, in whose honor the Elorde Awards are presented, said the golden belt is one more replica of the belt Elorde received for winning the world junior lightweight championship in 1960.

Viloria, called the Ultimidan Pandi, and most recently the Pinay Pacch, is a Bataan-based boxer who trains in town in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

The latest Filipino boxing sensation will join Manny Pacquiao, who will receive boxing's highest honor in Boxer of the Year awardees during the awards fest, presented by the Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Foundation to honor outstanding boxers in memory of the great legend himself, who reigned as junior lightweight from 1956-1967.

Rare PBA treat for Hong Kong OFWs Sunday

A PARAE BILLIARD ASSN'S THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association (PBA) when it makes its way to Hong Kong this Sunday.

League executives in the former British colony and thousands of overseas Filipino workers there are eagerly looking forward to the Purefoods-Talk 'N Text match on March 19, marking the PBA's first official overseas game in the Governor Ronaldo Mamuyac Philippine Cup.

The hour game to be played at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium is made possible by Talk 'N Text owner Manny V. Pangilinan through Smart Gilas, and with the support of Magic Sing and Cebu Pacific as official carriers.

Game tickets have been in demand since the league established the building the PBA dust in Hong Kong last month, the coordinators said.

"This is our way of thanking our thousands of OFW fans in Hong Kong," said commissioner Noli Eala. "We're bringing in these seven fans that are rising heroes of basketball the PBA is known for.

The endeavor would not have been possible without the help and effort extended by Mr. Pangilinan. We thank him for all his support."

The Hong Kong supports is the second official overseas game for the league in two years.

In last year's Fiesta Conference, Talk 'N Text barred Formula Shell before a jampacked crowd at Jakarta, Indonesia, with the Phone Mates enjoying a 97-80 advance.

The Tita Eggie way

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TWENTY YEARS AFTER JOSE Tita, the Philippine Basketball Association is as strong as ever.

Twenty years after Jaba 86, basketball is still the country's No. 1 sport.

And, yes, 20 years after Jaba Tita, our opinion remains, unopposed or virtually all spheres of government, if not our society itself.

The PBA is as strong as ever because the league has, like Jose Miguel Corp., become an institution. It is an institution because the league's founders left its unsung values, Jun Bravo and Nasty Galvez, had walked it on. It is an institution because the league's present leaders continue to refill it as the growing corporations or institutions can lost a generation without its founders) leaving the will to make it so. No group, no company, no association can exist beyond a generation without its founders leaving the will to make it so. Our generation is different now.

The PBA is 19 years old. It can go another 11 years again with, not encountering a major birth of only its own values as an institution their game. Take it from Manny V. Pangilinan. There's no real formula, which is living by the code words of traditional rules. With just a little imagination, the old formula can be improved on (no earth-shaking innovations.

Nothing really changes. Only people change.

The world is round and it will be that way till the end of time.

Robert Jaworski used to be a legend on the hard court. Ben Mbenson, as one knows not but even this is now a living Legend; only memories of his basketball exploits remain.

Basketball still play No. 1 with us if not up on. If not change, basketball will cease to be No. 1.

People change, just things change, institutions.

The basket dies but not the basket drop.

The prime dies but not the church.

The mayor dies but not the town hall.

The gardener dies but not the rose plant.

The President dies but not the Palace.

In light history people change either from good to bad or from bad to good—or even from bad to worse.

Twenty years after Jaba 86, nothing's changed, retires wise, values wise.

Corruption is virtually everywhere. We break laws, including the simplest traffic laws. We bribe and the hottest outsiders the act more money. We disregard diversity as though that sort in the law is a matter of life and death. We accept a government that is not people-friendly because it doesn't affect us directly anymore.

Twenty years after Jaba '86, there exist in 1986-still groups in the think, retired in-control-history again, that's one generation lost—to their values are in another generation values of the very people who were ahead of them. Again, that's one generation lost as their ethics are as misshapen as the ethics of the very people who were ahead of them.

So, we ought to join Eggie's "Tita Eggie" Classic Spanish's "Salvation Revolution."

Listen, had we initiated a revolution to rebuild in 1986 by instituting the required reforms in, shored up values, ethics and decent and honest governance beginning with the school year 1986-87, we would have produced a new breed of Filipinos and generations. Well, a generation engaged in honesty and decency and service-oriented in the people.

Perhaps, 20 years after Jaba '86, age shielding in spoke—still very rampant, I tell you—might now have become the badge of honor.

So, Tita Eggie. Let's restore the moments. Let's begin by teaching them how to score a basketball game the proper way. And the proper way is to tell the public servants that their first attends to the last name. Period.

***

Comments to mendoza@philstar.net

2nd National Caddies Open fires off today

By Maureg B. Castillo

CALAMBA, BATANGAS—200 hundred two-caddies, some of them representing provincial ambassadors of golf courses, tee off today for the second National Caddies' Open in this tough-as-nails layout.

The top three players in the end of the 72-hole tournament scheduled over three courses will earn the long-term NGO program designed to transform them into future amateur stars.

Participants who hail from as far south as Davao are in Batangas and from Baguio in the north will try to break the domination of Quezon here in this event supported by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Retired Marine and brothers Joseph and Mario Labayo hooked the top three places in the initial staging of the tourney last year. All three landed at Apo Golf in Davao.

Vice Governor Jose Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos and sportsman Hermie Esguerra officially opened the tournament yesterday together with Jovie Peponsan, one of the country's most successful caddies in amateur golf.

"A program like this does not come very often," Arroyo told the caddies in Filipino before hitting one of three ceremonial drives. "Make the most out of this opportunity."

The retired vice started last year to assist Abalos in the development of amateur golf and to produce a future member of the Philippine team.

Caddishing, which will be the site of the third round on Thursday, was the first to make a gamble on the products of the program. With four of the NGO members, the Sugar Barons won the recent Philippine Amateur Golf championship.

"We hope to be able to discover talents as good or even better than Jovel in the tournament," Esguerra, who shares the NGO chairmanship with Abalos, said. "There's no greater joy in bringing children happiness than caregivers."

The field, limited to players 20 years and younger, sampled the Subic Bay Golf Course in Subic on the first 36 holes today and tomorrow.

Under the stringent format which will have one to each round, only the top 20 scorers and ties will advance to the final 18 holes scheduled at 7:00 a.m. Friday.

TOURNAMENT co-chair Hermie Esguerra hits one of three ceremonial drives opening the National Caddies Open yesterday at Calamba's Avon 18th, ex-chair Ben Abalos, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Tommy Manotoc and Calabarzon's Dare Hernandez.

PSC PHOTO

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Hiring of Services of an Event Agency/ Communications Outfit to handle the DBP SLOP Logistics Race Promotions Program to boost tourism through the use of the country's Road Rail-on Roll-off (RoRo) Terminal System	₱ 3,000,000.00
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: DBP FUNDS

*Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Contract Begins: May 2006
Schedule of Activities:

Participants	Date	Venue
Submission and Opening of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Eligibility Requirement Documents (Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend the Opening of Eligibility Requirements Documents)	10:00 a.m. on March 27, 2006 (Monday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Issuance of Bid Data Sheet/Terms of Reference	March 28-30, 2006	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 30, 2006 (Wednesday) at 9:00 a.m.	CPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal of Eligible Consultants/Bidders	10:00 a.m. on April 10, 2006 (Monday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Technical Proposal (Eligible Bidders are encouraged to attend the Opening of Technical Proposals)	April 10, 2006 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m.	CPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations over at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. Only those that are eligible will be allowed to submit bids.

The contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification. Interested parties may secure the Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City or may download these forms at www.dbp.ph. Bidders are advised that the Government Service Insurance System (Department of Budget and Management) 4 non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00 will be charged to all eligible bidders. Quality Based Evaluation Procedure (QBE) (60%), method of evaluation will be used in the evaluation of proposals. The criteria and rating for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive the bidding process, or not awarding contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 813-3702 / 818-9511 loc. 2610.

(PSI March 14 & 15, 2006)

Bids and Awards Committee

Call Center exec golf slated at Midlands

A TOUCH DIFFICULT AND A BIGGER Series will be up for grabs as bids go into play in the much-awaited Call Center Executive Golf Challenge 2, on 16 bids tournament staged by Contact Center Association of the Philippines on Monday at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club.

Top executives of the booming call center industry are joining the tournament which has Pharmaceuticals as the title sponsor and with Avaya and PLUS Business Solutions as co-sponsors.

The organizing CCAP has invited a hundred or so guests, mostly from its members companies, to secure the always-hot golf set at 9 a.m. Registration starts at 7 a.m.

There will be individual and team competitions in the tourney which is strictly by invitation only. The organizers will feature participating call centers and their designated players.

For inquiries, call 886-4407 or 889-7763, or email admin@mediabox.com.ph/ directly to mediabox@hotmail.com.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Southern Leyte
CITY OF MAASIN
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. This City Government of Maasin through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all interested suppliers, dealers, distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the Supply and delivery of three (3) units CY, mobile fresh dryer (LH-120H) or THP diesel engine and four (4) units LR Diesel engine double compressor (LR-180) or THP diesel engine with an Approved Budget of the Contract of two million eight hundred ten pesos, Philippine currency (Php2,810,000.00).
2. The Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-bid Conference on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City.
3. Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from March 9 to 27, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract to the City Treasury Services, Maasin City.
4. Deadline for the submission applications for eligibility is ten and bid proposals shall be on March 28, 2006 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City immediately after the deadline applications for eligibility and bid proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives.
5. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, evaluation of bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
6. The City Government of Maasin assumes no responsibility whatsoever to unsuccessful and indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid. The Bids and Awards Committee of the city of Maasin reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.
7. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 570-8808 or 570-8824.

(Sgd.) **CRISPIN M. ARONG, JR.**
Chairman

(PSI - March 13 & 14, 2006)

SPORTSWATCH

More BEET classes barred

MILO BEET CONTESTS CHAMPIONSHIP BALL PROgram will be held Wednesdays and Saturdays in three separate venues — San Beda College-Manila, Notre Dame of Greater Manila and Jose Rizal University. Classes will start on April 1 and end on April 29. Milo BEET Center has also scheduled advanced classes for serious-minded at Ateneo College covered courses (the 11 a.m. pass Mabini Campus) to 5 p.m.) on March 18, Manila Academy (8 a.m. 11:30 a.m. March 25 and Old Adamson Learning office hours).

Executive, ladies chess set

REGISTRATION FOR THE MCC EXECUTIVE TWO-ladies and Ladies Team action chess tournaments is now ongoing at the second floor of St. Francis Square of the corner of Emilio Jacinto and Ayala Drive, Mandaluyong City and Makati Central Business Park 1 in Makati, Metro Manila. The executive event, which kicks off the Saturday, is open to all businessmen, professionals and those holding corporate secretary or managerial positions in private and government offices. The ladies team event is set on Sunday. Special awards will be given to the best executive, senior and best school performers. For inquiries, call 635-8382, 896-4961 and 7988-6 ext. 1001 or 1261.

60 fights at Big Dome today

SIXTY FIGHTS ARE SLATED TO TODAY AT THE "The Great Philippines 5-Cock Derby" starts at 5 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. Part of the derby proceeds will be given to school athletics, according to derby host Allie "Pagong" Cayanan, president of the Philippine Gamefowl Commission (PGC). A total of 60 fights is required to hold a night for cocks or either the first or second day. A guaranteed prize of P600,000 is allotted for each day of competition.

Largahan derby resumes

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE LARGAHAN 5-COCK Derby at Rodrigo Magat Cockpit starts at 2 p.m. today with more than 100 matches on tap. Twenty-nine cockers and breeders pushed two cocks each in Saturday's opening round of the derby. The first round fights are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Other derby schedules are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For inquiries, call 632-6213, 632-6214 or 632-6803. Derby sponsors are Ladipson Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Sportswear.

Top seeds romp in Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, ... IT WAS A BOTTOM day for the top seeds on a cold, windy Sunday at the Pacific Life Open.

The men's leading trio of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick all won their opening matches, while women's number one seed Justine Henin-Hardenne, number two Lindsay Davenport and number three Maria Sharapova also scored victories.

Top-ranked Federer fought off Chile's Nicolas Massu, 6-3, 7-6, in the second round, while Nadal posted a 6-4, 6-4 win over Czech Jan Hernych.

Third seed Roddick barreled past Argentine Jose Acasuso, 7-2, 6-0.

The 19-year-old Nadal, who beat Federer to win the title in Dubai in his last tournament, struggled with the wind but was overconfident for his opponent on the day.

Eighth seed Andre Agassi lost control of his temper in the second set but then won the final six games in a 6-0, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Paul Goldstein.

Britain's great teenage hope fell, however, Andy Murray losing 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, to fifth seed Nikolay Davydenko of Russia.

In women's action, Henin-Hardenne advanced, ending quick work of Tatiana Perebiynis, 6-2, 6-2, while Sharapova squeezed a 6-4, 6-3 win over Lilia Osterloh. Martina Hingis beat America's Sybille Bammer, 6-3, 6-3. Reuters

ROGER Federer kicks the ball after he hit it into the net against Nicolas Massu.

Wade applies Heat as Cavs cool down

NEW YORK — DWYANE WADE HAD 33 points, nine rebounds and seven assists as the Miami Heat rallied to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 99-92, on Sunday in Florida, overshadowing another brilliant individual effort from LeBron James.

James poured in a game-high 47 points, including 28 in the fourth quarter, and pulled down seven rebounds but the Cavaliers were unable to hold the lead down the stretch, suffering their second straight defeat after winning four in a row.

Dyshawn Pierson had 15 points and an fourth for Cleveland but was the only other Cavalier in his double figures.

Shaquille O'Neal contributed 18 points to Miami's cause while Alonzo Mourning came off the bench to add 16 points and eight boards as the evil Sun Heat registered their 13th win in 15 games.

Trailing 72-60 entering the final quarter, the Heat surged in front behind a 10-2 run capped by a Gary Payton three pointer to take their first lead of the game.

After James answered with a three-pointer to put the Cavaliers momentarily back in front, the Heat went on another 9-0 run keyed by six points from Mourning to take control 84-77.

Cleveland would get back to within 92-90 but would not get closer.

Complete results: Miami 99, Cleveland 92; San Antonio 89, Houston 84; Seattle 105, LA Lakers 102; Philadelphia 104, Memphis 97; Boston 108, Denver 101; Toronto 88, Indiana 86; Detroit 88, Charlotte 76; New Jersey 90, New Orleans 84; Portland 121, Phoenix 101; Sacramento 98, Dallas 86. AFP

SHOAB Sports will air the Miami-at-LA Clippers bouts at 11:30 a.m. today with a replay at 8 p.m.

Russian bets shine

BEIJING — FAR NORTH CHINESE Zhang Lipeng (right) will a white per and ended with a bang after beats Russia grabbed eight titles to match their best gold medal tally first country were crowned and wins begin. Alexandra Bokiy credited the same to his one of the greatest athletes in history. He became the first person to win world titles in three individual sports — indoors, outdoor and cross country — after triumphing in the 5,000-metres. Sad Samoil Dukbaev showed signs of challenging the Olympian's dominance this year with his silver-medal winning performance. "The race was fantastic," Dukbaev said. AP

Annika starts season right

HUIXQUILUCAN, MEXICO — ANNIKA Sorenstam had three birdies on the back nine and finished with a 2-under 70 Sunday to win her first LPGA Tour event of the year by two strokes at the Bancomer Gard Classic.

The top-ranked female golfer, who also won this tournament a year ago, was at seven par and tied for the lead after the first nine holes. But she rattled off three birdies in four holes to take the tournament with a win under 200 total.

On the 18th hole, she bravely missed a short putt for par, but rapped it to take the victory. It was the 21st time the 35-year-old Sorenstam has successfully defended a tournament title.

Last year, Sorenstam also won to become to start her season. AP

US posts controversial win over Japan

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA — KAZUhisa Ishii signed a contract through the winning his for the United States after Japan appeared to get the short end of a controversial call.

Rodriguez hit a three-loaded, two-out single in the ninth Sunday to give Team USA a 5-3 victory in the opener of Round 2 in the inaugural World Baseball Classic.

Vernon Wells opened the ninth with his third hit, and Randy Winn sacrificed, but reached first when second baseman Tomoyuki Sahikay drew no error for coming off the base while catching third baseman Akinori Iwamura's throw.

Loser Kenji Fujikawa threw out Wells at third on Michael Young's attempted sacrifice, and Derek Jeter was hit by a pitch to load the bases.

Japan appeared to take a 4-2 lead off Joe Nathan in the eighth when Iwamura flied to left with one out and the bases loaded. Sahikay beat Wells's throw home, and second base umpire Brian Knight ruled safe when Team USA appealed the play. But plate umpire Bob Davidson overruled the call following a brief discussion with the other umpires.

Ichiro Suzuki struck Sahikay left early on the television replay, and Japan manager Sadaharu Oh argued to no avail.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, Omar Vizquel missed a double-play opportunity and gave up an additional run on a fielder's choice, as Cuba beat Venezuela, 7-2. AP

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Gorres' Thai foe due today

THAILAND'S WARNITCO CHONBURA, 66-three weights to Cebu for his date with Mandaue's J. "The Dream" Gorres for the vacant Oriental and Manila Boxing Federation super flyweight title this tomorrow at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

The Bangkok-based Chonburra, the former OPBF titleholder, arrives on PAL flight PR 855 with Thai judge Prot Prayadisit, his trainer and his manager.

Gorres and Chonburra are set to meet for the first time when they appear with International promoter Sammy Gello-wa at the SOBP Press hosted by Bobby Andrada starting at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Basilisa Restaurant in Cebu City.

The two protagonists will answer queries from the media in the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

Another fight, WBO Asia Pacific super bantamweight champ Gay Jansuwan battles Thai Jocker Sandaiyagyen. Al Bansil goes up against another Thai, Dechapol Sandaiyagyen, and Rocky Fuentes of the ALA stable tangles with Mahee Gabol protege Jojo Bandoja for the vacant 80-lb. weight title. Salwarol Laguardia, contributor

THREE-EVENT champion Noel Dizon negotiates the quagmire during the Puerto Princesa City 4x4 races Sunday.

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Brief Description of Scope: LOT 1 – Diversion for Water Abstraction; LOT 2 – Pre-Treatment Facilities; LOT 3 – Water and Steel Line Pipings; LOT 4 – Water Meter (size 1/2" Ø)

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT, through its duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with prior classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for Eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project: Lot 1: Tulungatung II Production Well; Lot 2: Guiwan/Joaquin Production Well II; Lot 3: Tulungatung Diversion Dam; Lot 4: Tulungatung Pre-Treatment Facilities

Location: Lot 1: Tulungatung, Barangay Vitali; Lot 2: Guiwan/Joaquin, Barangay Guiwan; Lot 3: Tulungatung, Barangay Tulungatung; Lot 4: Tulungatung, Barangay Tulungatung

Approved Budget for Contract (ABC): Lot 1: ABC: Php 16,523,000; Lot 2: ABC: Php 11,247,000; Lot 3: ABC: Php 4,941,247.00; Lot 4: ABC: Php 1,190,000

Contract Duration: Ninety (90) Calendar Days

Prospective Contractors shall possess a valid PCAB License, had undertaken a similar project with an amount of 50% of the proposed project for the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment owned, leased, or under purchase available for prosecution of the project. The List of minimum equipment requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Documents. The BAC shall use a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria in the Eligibility Checking/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examinations of Bids. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All individuals relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Warranty, Pre-Bidding conferences shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete activities are listed:

BAC ACTIVITIES	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) including application for Eligibility	March 15 to March 27, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 15 to March 27, 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility Documents	March 15 to 24, 2006
4. Submission of Results of Eligibility Check	March 27 to 31, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 3 to 7, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	April 10, 2006
7. Submission and Opening of Bids	April 24, 2006

The Eligibility Forms will be available at the 3rd Flr., Zamboanga City Water District, Pilar St., Zamboanga City, upon their submission of Letter of Intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount by the following fee.

Bid Documents will be available only to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount for the following lots: Lot 1: P5,000.00; Lot 2: P5,000.00; Lot 3: P5,000.00; to the Zamboanga City Water District Cashier.

The Zamboanga City Water District reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidder for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) ALEJO S. ROJAS, JR.
BAC Chairman

Republic of the Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT

Pilar St., Zamboanga City

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BAC Chairman

Catameo, Dizon big off-road winners

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—BOY CATAMEO of Tanay, Rizal, and Noel Dizon of Angeles City exploited their mastery of the terrain Sunday to capture top honors in the 2nd Bukidnong Kuriskid MP Puerto-Princesa Pilderia 4x4 Challenge and Mabuhilan Speed-fest at the Sta. Monica Raceway here.

Catameo drove seven liters about 3,000 specimen as he posted the fastest time of 1 minute 43.38 seconds to emerge the 4x4 Extreme-Open plate over Britain's Ali Inkster, who finished 1.98 seconds behind.

Dizon was third in the Extreme Challenge with a time of 2:20.92, but the former Luzon 4x4 Rallycrosse champion already had his share of the limelight by dominating three events—4-Cylinders, 2-Cylinders and Production 33.

He clocked 2:07.70 to ride the 5-Cylinders showcase feature and Category. Then he posted a faster time of 1:55.28 to win the 4-Cylinder-Diesel-crown Palawenite John Andrew Bunsol and Pinoycle "Pencil" Bohol.

Dizon wrapped up his third title with the fastest time of 2:04.50 in the Production 33 class over Bunsol and Pidol.

Catameo, the top local performer when he topped the Rookie Open crown with a time of 1:54.03, Manny Gomez was second (2:06.33) and Hakobited (2:11.16).

Gobin shared honors with Bel Banaya in the Radiator Open class of the motorbike event. Gobin ended the five-day with a best time of 1:36.34, but Banaya bounced back the next day with a faster run of 1:35.10.

Bhardy Marcaltan, Puerto Princesa's finest motorbike rider, took the Enduro Master men over Winchil Mangubat and Greg Villanueva.

Dennar Tang and Pidol wound up fourth and fifth in the Extreme event over a muddy, slippery track that became even more sticky on the second day due to a heavy downpour.

The event will be shown on Speed TV over ABC-5 with replays on Prime Channel and international viewing through the Pinoy TV of ABS-CBN Global Network.

Mike Pamaran, president of the organizing MP Turbo, expressed his gratitude for the all-out support of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Cpbin head Ellen Hagedorn, city administrator Augusto Socamos, Councilor Mark Hagedorn, city sports head Bob Hamis, Clark Hagedorn and motocross legend Butch Chan.

Cebuyao Fiesta Derby today

A CASH POT OF P140,000.00 IS UP FOR GRABS IN THE 2-week Fiesta Derby hosted by the Laguna Cockers and Breeders Association (LCBA) today at the Cebuyao Coliseum in Cebuyao, Laguna. Derby fans P4,000 is the derby fund is expected to reach the P100,000 mark. The top-golfer gets P70,000. Weight limit is from 1.8 kilograms to 2.4 kg. The mark is presented by Dale De Castro. For inquiries, call 0916-7862986, 867-6780/868-6991-92/4996.

RACING FORM

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(2nd Tri)—Tiger (6), Good Spirits (5), Sweet Diamond (4), Spoke (3).

Race 2—(Pre-Tri)—Lei Princess (3), Bruise (5), Mere Princess (8), Mischievous (3), Tetsuji's Charm (7).

Race 3—(Super 6/2nd Tri)—Richard's Magic (3), Mischievous (10), Miss Whitefang/Dutch Rock (11), Sister's Bond (8), Please Don't Stop (6), Smile of The Wind (1).

Race 4—(Tri)—Mercedes Boy (8), La Caprese (5), Mr. Fix It (4).

Race 5—(2nd Tri)—Gamboy Statement (2), Sakuren (7), Shanie's Golden Ginger Lady (6), Ball Table (4).

Race 6—(Pre-Tri)—Real Kisses (8), Scarlet Wind (6), Courage Heart (4), Vanguard (1), Mia Rosa (3).

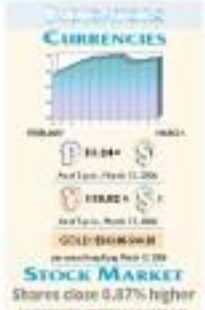
Race 7—(Pre-Tri)—Solar Cookie (6), Silent (5), Bigwin Lucky (1), Wonderful Princess (7).

Race 8—(2nd Tri)—Miss Vicky (1), Good House (3), Long Haire (2), Strong Jack (4).

Race 9—(Super 6/2nd Tri)—Real Tough (5), Key Dancer (2), Reporter (7), Friendly Dancer (12), Golden Point (3), Diplomat (14).

BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Pangalangan • Associate Editor Carmel S. Martinez



T-bill rates fall across the board

Decline reflects 'comfort' of a market awash in cash

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES declined across the board yesterday, reflecting the "comfort" of a market still awash in cash while the government's fiscal standing continues to improve.

The benchmark 91-day T-bill rate dropped 20.3 basis points to 5.017 percent. The three-month bill rate more than three times oversubscribed, with vendors receiving P4.14 billion compared with the government's debt offering of only P1 billion per T-bill level.

The 182-day bill fetched 5.272 percent, or 4.1 basis points lower than the rate on 2006 auctions two weeks ago. Bids for the six-month government security reached P4.028 billion, making it more than four times oversubscribed.

The rate for the 364-day bill settled 38.3 basis points lower to 7.003 percent. Tenders for the one-year debt instrument were the highest, reaching P7.2 billion.

"The is a reflection of the liquidity circulating in the financial system such as comfort or the market buoyed by the government's positive fiscal position in January," National Treasurer Omar Cruz pointed out to reporters.

The Bureau of the Treasury auction committee accepted P3.161 billion worth of bids, thereby raising its auction borrowing requirement.

Cruz said the high level of liquidity in the market was partly attributed to the huge volume of T-bill and Treasury bonds, worth P1.5 billion, that are set to mature this week.

Some banks usually reinvest proceeds of maturing government securities in T-bills and bonds, so the rollover of bids for newly issued government securities is added to the huge volume of maturing securities.

T-Bills B2

HIGH-WIRE ACT
There was appear to be breaking the law—of gravity, that is—at a bay per up another billboard on Edsa while dew maintain a constant hold on the scaffold. A large portion of the highway has turned into a construction site, where authorities are to gain hundreds that range from over-the-top squeeze to underarm deodorants.

Gov't '05 debt up 2%, settling at over P3.89T

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S OUTSTANDING debt settled at P3.89 trillion as of end December 2005, registering a 2 percent increase from the P3.81 trillion recorded a year ago.

According to analysts, fiscal officials continue to resort to borrowings to plug the budget gap.

Of the latest debt figure, domestic liabilities accounted for P2.1161 trillion, or 8.1 percent higher than the previous year's. Domestic borrowings are usually done through regular auctions of government securities and direct loans sourced by government agencies.

GOV'T B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Review of RP raising law worries foreign investors B2

NTC moves to help hasten RPN, IBC privatization B3

Peso goes against Asia currency downtrend

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY RECEIVED THE downward turning most other currencies in Asia against the US dollar.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier said the local currency was still "slightly undervalued."

After hitting a high of $1.260-$1, and a low of $1.340-$1, the peso closed up at $1.34 yesterday from Friday's $1.30 to the $1-dollar.

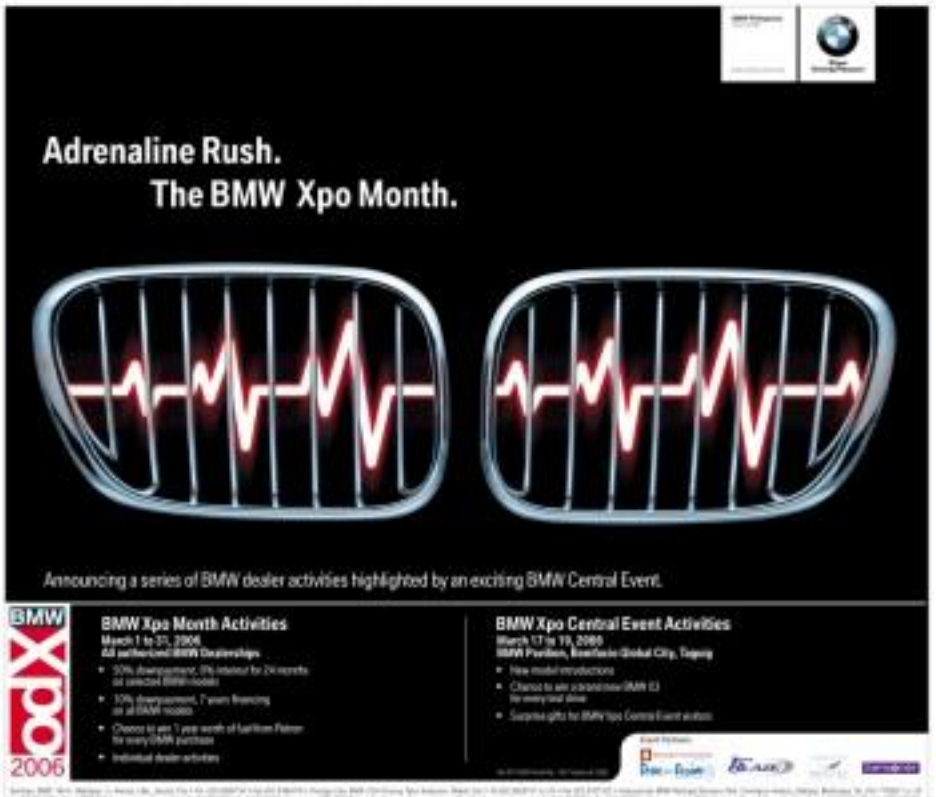
Tagged last year as Asia's best performing currency after it surged by 6 percent to $1.09-$1, the peso continues to suffer from the start of the year. It has gone up nearly 3.5 percent or $1.05 against the greenback.

"There's a healthy two-way trade," said Mariels dos, chief budget officer at Equitable PCI Bank.

Dos said some corporate importers from the oil and manufacturing sectors snapped up yesterday. He said that most dollar users have found the current rates to be attractive.

On the other hand, most dollar conversion fell on profit-taking yesterday, while the US dollar was picked up by sales as

PESO B2



Review of RP mining law worries foreign investors

Move may jeopardize efforts to attract capital

THE PHILIPPINES IS TRYING TO reassure foreign investors they have nothing to fear from a review of the country's mining law but analysts say the surprise move has spooked foreign firms vital to the industry's revival.

The government could say Monday that the reexamination of the law, which allows for full foreign ownership of local mines, was simply to address environmental concerns raised by the country's Catholic bishops and not a reversal of investor-friendly rules.

"It is needs to be amended to strengthen the implementation of the (environmental) issues there. It will have to be amended," Environment Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said.

He said the bishops had sought a review of the law "to ensure (that it) has some teeth."

Luz Feldis, the government spokesman, if would conduct a 30-day review of the law but any amendment would take longer because it would have to be debated by Congress.

The country is dependent on foreign investors to tap an estimated $1 billion in mineral wealth. However, analysts say the government's apparent willingness to rewrite laws could jeopardize efforts to attract $6.5 billion in funding for the mining sector.

"That's not good news for the Philippines, there was a perception that policy was going the other way," Ted Gradabe, mining analyst for Sun Hostbreaking in Sydney, said.

"From a geological standpoint, the Philippines is A-1, but if they keep changing things, miners will go to Mongolia or somewhere else."

The Philippines ranks in the world's top five for its deposits of copper, nickel and iron ore and is geographically closer to investors in Hungry China than the region's other major mining centre, Indonesia.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the country boasted one of the biggest mining industries in the world but two decades of neglect, environmental mishaps and rebels over land rights have seen its potential stunted.

Political instability has also deterred prospective firms putting money into the Philippines, where there have been more than a dozen coup attempts since the ousting of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

"The Philippines still need to demonstrate significant changes to the way the country is run to attract a meaningful level of foreign mining investment. That clearly is not happening," Keith Goode, director of Eagle Mining Research of Australia, said.

Local communities, particularly those reliant on fishing, are concerned about the dangers from mining.

Australia's Lafayette Mining became the first foreign firm in nearly four decades to develop a Philippine mine but cyanide leaks last year triggered a wave of anti-mining protest, particularly among the mainly Catholic country's bishops.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said it was not worried about the review because it was unlikely that the law would be altered significantly.

"Anything to tighten up environmental protection is welcome," said Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president of the chamber and also head of Benguet, the country's oldest miner.

The government said it would await the recommendations of a fact-finding commission headed by bishop Antonio Ramos that looked into the Lafayette leaks before completing its review.

Miners also assure mining companies to devote at least 10 percent of capital expenditures to land conservation programmes and to spend 1.5 percent of direct mining and milling costs for annual environmental programs. Miners

21 expected to vie for PSE board seats

By Elizabeth L. Sarabia

TWENTY-ONE CANDIDATES WILL VIE FOR the Philippine Stock Exchange's 10 board seats during the bourse's annual elections on April 6.

Of the total, 12 are nominated for the seven seats reserved for brokers, while nine candidates are up for the eight seats reserved for non-brokers.

Five of the seven seats for brokers still represent the "big brokers," or those with value turnover and paid up capital of more than P500 million. The two other seats are to be occupied by representatives of "small brokers," or those with value turnover and paid up capital of less than P500 million.

In the meantime, the PSE list of nominees, which was released last Friday, has generated concerns from certain brokers, who claimed that some of the reported candidates were not on the list.

PSE director William Ang of Astro Securities Corp. is questioning the disqualification by the PSE nominations and elections committee of former PSE governor and Tokyo broker Joseph Bonoa.

Bonoa was nominated by Ang to the board as representative of small brokers.

Ang said the nominees were not informed of the reason behind their disqualification, leading him to believe that Bonoa was bumped off on a "mere technicality" from formally accepting his nomination after 12 noon of March 6, the deadline set by the PSE.

However, Ang claimed he was informed by PSE lawyer and Nominations member Atty. Encarnacion that the deadline was extended to 5 p.m. of the same day.

Ang said he would ask Bonoa to re-submit his documents.

PSE officials were unavailable to comment on the issue as of press time.

ROMAS

The nominees for the "big broker" category are Ang of Astro Securities Corp.; Victor Ramos, Robert Goyanko Jr., Eddie Gibbing of Banko Securities; Alejandro Yu of S.J. Lim & Co.; Myron Tiaoqui of Philstocks Financial; Edwin Lee of Tritos Securities Corp.; Paul Sabas of Accord Capital Equities; Mirtha Limlingan of Regina Capital Development Corp. and Gerardo Jose of Grepalife.

Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialists Inc. and Rodolfo Cruz of BG Securities were nominated for the "small brokers" category.

The nominees for the non-broker seats include Arabella Chua of FLRV Beneficial Trust Fund; Renee Bienvenido of the San Miguel Corp. Retirement Plan; Ray Joseph Espiritu (a representative of the Government Service and Insurance System); Ruben Ancheta as representative participant, PSE chair Jose Ving; Corazon Bonifacio formerly with Manila Electric Co.; Juan Lorenzo and Jaime Quijano.

PSE president Francis Lim was nominated to remain in the exchange's presidency.

PNOC posts 34% rise in '05 profit to ₱12.3B

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. posted a consolidated net income of P12.3 billion in 2005, up 34 percent from 2004's P9.2 billion.

Citing unaudited figures, PNOC officials denied the profit surge to higher prices of oil, some oil gas and coal, and the increase in electricity sales last year.

Consolidated revenue jumped 11 percent in 2005 to about P28.3 billion from the previous year's P25.7 billion.

PNOC said it was also able to boost its bottom line by reducing its operating expenses by 5 percent to P23 billion from P24.3 billion in 2004.

"This was achieved largely by implementing the government's rationalization and austerity program and a disciplined investment strategy," PNOC said in a statement yesterday.

With its strong performance in 2005, the state firm said it expected to remit P4.9 billion in income taxes to the national government, 21.5 percent higher than the P4.4 billion paid in the previous year.

"Looking forward, the company's growth opportunities are described. It is apparently adding petroleum exploration acreage in the South China Sea of Palawan and developing new geothermal

DISCLOSURES

ANSA BANKCO Inc. resigned as chair and director of **East Asia Power Resources Corp.** effective Jan. 31.

***

A. BROWN CO. has purchased 90,000,000 shares at P0.06 per share on March 8.

***

PETROENERGY RESOURCES CORP. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 20, 1:30 p.m. at Phoenix 527-528 Fl&S, corner E. Pradera & Polk Drive, SM Makati Ave., Makati City.

***

SBI INVESTMENTS Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 27, 2:30 p.m. at the Bayanihan Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila, Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City.

***

MOMENTS of the board of **Concrete Aggregates Corp.** have elected lawyer Michael David I. Alcuaz Sr. as assistant corporate secretary and compliance officer for SRC to succeed lawyer Carmela C. Lagtu.

***

HONDAFLOR International Philippines Inc. has rescheduled its annual stockholders' meeting to Sept. 11, 9 a.m. at the Mandaluyong Shaw Ballroom, 2/F Sm. SI Payat Ave., Makati City. Compiled by Kate Pedroso, *PDI Research*

NTC moves to help hasten RPN, IBC privatization

By Dominic L. Lucas

BROADCAST REGULATORS, state privatization officials and their financial advisers are set to formulate a plan that would hasten the privatization of vast unopened broadcast airwaves.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) chief Ronald O. Solis said financial advisers for the privatization program had sought a meeting with regulators to help move the long-delayed task forward.

"I understand they're doing due diligence on [these auctions] now," he said, referring to the government's financial advisers ULSA Exchange Capital Corp.

"They're exploring the [underoff disposal for channels 9 and 11]."

Finding best way to dispose of 2 networks

The government has long been trying to privatize its stakes in the Radio Philippines Network and the intergovernmental Broadcasting Corp. It unsuccessfully tried to broadcast outfits from personalities linked to the late strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Solis said the nature of the discussions would be exploratory but they were expected to help the government formulate a more concrete privatization plan.

In particular, the discussions will attempt to determine the best way to dispose of RPN-9 and IBC-13.

The meeting will help clarify whether the privatization will involve the sale of the companies' lock, stock and barrel or only their assets. Offering them for lease is another option.

Recently, PCGG chair Sharad E. Angliongto said he has interest in the broadcast outfits, but said he was more interested in their assets, rather than assuming the entire operations that included the stations' liabilities.

To date, the government's privatization committee under the finance department has yet to come up with a firm valuation for both RPN-9 and IBC-13.

Solis said that it was no pressure to speculate on whether the two stations would be bundled and sold as one entity, although he did concede that it was a possibility, depending on the structure that would be chosen by the financial advisers.

"Eventually, they'll have to ask our permission when the plan is ready," he said, when asked about the possibility of bundling the two stations as one.

There are, however, other unresolved issues which the government is trying to get out of the way to push the privatization effort forward.

Last week, the finance department said that the privatization of RPN-9 would not push through as scheduled because the unpaid television station still has to settle back taxes with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and address issues

concerning its workforce.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., who oversees the privatization program, said the financial adviser on the sale of RPN-9 recommended that the government postpone the sale until after the TV station's obligations has been settled.

The same issues are hounding the attempt to dispose of IBC-13.

T-bill rates fall . . .

Front page 01

Cruz said that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is not likely to raise its key policy rates soon, because the expected slowdown in inflation in the second half may exert a downward pressure on the interest rates of government securities.

The Department of Finance earlier announced that the national government's budget deficit stood at P21.4 billion in January, or P5.9 billion better than the official target set at P27.3 billion.

Officials said the January deficit data kept government until on track to meet its full-year target of reducing the fiscal gap to P125 billion in 2006 from P146.5 billion last year.

They likewise expressed optimism that the medium-term target of reducing the deficit to zero by 2009 would be achieved.

Cruz said that the February fiscal data will be announced on Thursday.

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Peso goes against . . .

Front page 01

The strong job data in the US. The data, in turn, fueled expectations of further rises in US interest rates.

At the end of the day, the US dollar strengthened across most major currencies except the euro.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. earlier said that the peso, which had surged to a three-and-a-half year high in the throes of exporters and some economists, is still "slightly undervalued" in terms of purchasing power parity.

Currency traders said the BSP's comment propped up the peso today, as the market took it as a sign that the BSP would remain "tolerant" of the peso's sharp gains against the US dollar.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo explained that the purchasing power parity (PPP) is the amount it is the same as the real effective exchange rate (REER), or the "law of one price," which determines whether a currency is losing or gaining.

Gov't '05 debt up 2% . . .

Front page 01

Foreign obligations had a P1.712-trillion share of the total debt figure, or 4.8 percent lower than the year-ago level. The finance department had explained that the decline in foreign debt was due to the Bonds' strategy of favoring more domestic borrowings over external ones to avoid foreign exchange risks.

Government's search for foreign borrowings usually through official development assistance extended by multilateral and bilateral agencies. The Philippines' biggest ODA creditors are the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Foreign debts are also incurred through the floatation of foreign-denominated government securities, which accounts for P52.2 billion of the total debt figure.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz noted that the government's debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio improved to 72 percent as of end 2005 from the previous year's 79 percent.

Debt-to-GDP ratio comparisons base on debt growth relative to the growth of an economy. Last year's decline in ratio means that the GDP growth outstripped the increase in government debt.

The budget deficit hit P146.5 billion last year, better than the P180-billion target and lower than the P187 billion recorded in 2004.

The Bureau of Treasury also announced that the government's contingent debt stood at P588.4 billion as of end 2005, registering a 29.7 percent reduction from the P837.7 billion recorded the previous year. Michelle V. Abesa

Shares close 0.87% . . .

Front page 01

day-high of 2,121.35, after touching a low of 2,100.72. The broader all-shares index gained 11.48 points or 0.828.95.

Volume reached 606.1 million shares worth P3.4 billion (P27.4 million). Losers slightly outnumbered gainers 44 to 26, while 46 stocks were unchanged.

The peso averaged at 51.22 to the US dollar in mid-day trade.

SM Investments was top-traded. It closed up P1 at P237 while unit SM Prime Holdings retreated 1.9 centavos to P7.095.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone led the main index's rally, closing P35 higher at P1,835, tracking the rise of its American depositary Receipts in New York Friday. AFP

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"Death is the opening of a more subtle life.
In the flower, it acts like the perfume;
in the chrysalis, the butterfly, and in man, the soul."

Evelyn Ongsansoy-Marcelo

went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, March 12, 2006, at the age of 71. She leaves to cherish her memories, children and their spouses **Allaboy** and **Nini**, **Raul** and **Yvonne**, **Willy** and **Jenny**, **Estela** and **Francklie**, and **Rey**; grandchildren **Kim Gerard**, **Kim Arthur**, **China Mei**, **Kimberly**, **Cyan**, **Elie**, **Ralph**, **Raya**, **Jodfred**, **Jolyn**, and **Karen**, and a multitude of relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbors. They shall forever remember her kindness, selflessness and thoughtfulness.

Her earthly remains lie at the Arlington East Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo corner Mercedes Ave., Pasig City. Interment will take place at the Evergreen Memorial Park, Mercedes Ave., Pasig City, on Saturday, March 18, 2006 after the 9 a.m. Mass.

* Please omit flowers.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Matthew 11:28**

"Death is not the end;
It is not darkness;
It is not nothingness.
We have come to our home.
We have risen."

(Ret.) Judge Francis J. Militante

CTA Judge: Tuesday, Surigao del Sur
RTC Judge – Branch 12 Cebu City

peacefully joined his Creator on March 11, 2006
at the age of 83

Spouse: **Abelita Pace Militante**; *(To) children*: **Jimmy** & **Christie**, **George**, **Connie** & **Ned**, **Tessie**, **Bobbie**, **Gerry** & **Ami**, **Grace** & **Eddie**, **Marilou** & **Danny**, **Freddie** & **Chin-Chin**, **Annie-Marie**, **Jojo** & **Susan**, *grandchildren*: **Mipet**, **Jay-ve** & **Sam-Sam**, **Kayzee**, **Brian** & **Kathleen**, **Niño**, **Stephanie** & **Chick-Chick**, **Dominic** & **Sheila**, **Frances** & **Francine**, **Jason** & **Joey**

His remains lie in state at the Divine Mercy Chapel A. Soriano Street (North), Cebu City. Interment will be on Friday, March 17, 2006 at the Cebu Memorial Park after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Sacred Heart Church, El Salvador St., Cebu City.

Novena Masses are held everyday at 6:00 p.m.

Contact person: **Anna (0920-5124979)**
Militante Residence: **19 Busselton St., Cebu City**

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF WAKE	INTERMENT DATE AND TIME
DELA PAZ, MARCELO	Chapel A, 1st	To be announced	Holy Cross of Mercy Cem., Cavite
DELA CRUZ, ROMUALDO	Chapel C, 1st floor	3rd Walk, 1:30 p.m. Mass at 10:00 a.m.	Heritage Memorial Park, Manila

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Dalisay J. Aldaba
September 9, 1942 – March 11, 2006
Our butterfly is survived by siblings **Dionisia**, **Aurora** and **Rosario**, **Nita** (late), **Jesus**, **Lualhati**, **Amadito**, **Corbacio**, **Enrique**, **Homobono**, **Rodolfo** and other family members.
Her remains may be viewed at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Bonifacio Main will be at Cupilla del Señor, Wednesday, March 15, at 9:00 a.m.

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More Classified Ads on pages A2, A20 & A24.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Republican passport documents of the late **DENNIS G. HERALDE** were misplaced/lost since 01/04a during/or Authorization by her accompanying twins and shall be returned thru: ILPA, Jessie M. Peralta and Atty. Gen. Atty. Regg. 10, Regional Trial Court of Bohol, of Notary Public Henry S. Bacarro, ARN 19348.

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Coco bio-diesel sales weak in Mindanao, says firm

SEEING RED
A Kalinga child from Lubuagan, Kalinga, shows her peers how to weave. The many-colored shirts worn by Kalinga women call for between P600 and P1,000 each.

Flying V traces sluggish cocodiesel sales to lack of information among motorists

DAVAO CITY—THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE fuels has not picked up as fast as expected here, according to a local oil company.

Edwin Claparols, officer-in-charge of Flying V in the Visayas-Mindanao area, said that more than two months since coco bio-diesel was launched here, it has yet to be fully exposed by the motoring public.

The government has been pushing alternative fuels, such as biodiesel, to cushion the impact of skyrocketing prices of petroleum products.

Claparols said the lack of public awareness could be one reason why sales of bio-diesel have been sluggish.

Claparols said Flying V stations, which used 17 to Mindanao, sell an average of 1,000,000 liters of bio-diesel a month.

But he said the company needed to sell more for biodiesel to be viable.

"Since the propagation of the alternative fuel, major companies are still reluctant to support the coco bio-diesel project," Claparols said.

He added that a presidential directive mandating government agencies to use bio-diesel for their vehicles could only do so much.

Claparols blamed the problem on the usual red tape.

"We cannot rely on the government consumption for our products because of the time involved in processing documents. Also it is not wise to depend on (the government) for sustainability," he said.

Claparols said Flying V has already lowered the product's price to entice the public to use more of it.

In this city, Flying V stations sell bio-diesel at about P32.76 a liter. Regular diesel, on the other hand, sells for about P32.17 a liter.

Aside from reducing prices, Claparols said Flying V also planned to go into a more aggressive marketing campaign to educate up-and-coming motorists on the use of alternative fuels.

Coco bio-diesel has been extensively tested by national and international scientific agencies.

"Tests proved that the use of bio-diesel resulted in significant savings, dramatic reductions in harmful smoke emissions and enhanced engine performance.

"It also provides a major boost to the coconut industry," Claparols said.

Flying V earlier disclosed plans to invest in more pumps selling alternative fuels, hoping to increase the share of coco methyl ester (CME) blended diesel in as much as 40 percent of total diesel sales this year.

Flying V chair Ramon Villavicencio earlier said biodiesel in 2005 accounted for between 11 and 20 percent of the oil firm's total diesel sales. —Judy Quirico, PDI Mindanao bureau

ARMM students learning more via text

COTABATO CITY—FOR ONE thing in the war-torn areas of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), cost-saving gets beyond just sending just pencil erasers.

It allows their teachers to bring better English, science and mathematics into their classrooms just by using a phone.

This thanks to the TextSmuth technology brought in by the Education and Livelihood Skills Alliance (Elsa) of corporate social arms and humanitarian organizations.

The technology was started in 2005 by the US-based International Youth Foundation (IYF) in collaboration with Nokia, Procter and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Global Support Systems.

The system integrates digital satellite broadcasting and mobile phone communication, allowing the transmission of video learning materials directly to the classroom and on a 36-inch TV screen.

Last month, Elsa organizational representatives said the program has been expanded to include English in ARMM.

Mayor Muslimen Sema cited Cotabato City's public schools for posting the highest mean gain scores among eight pilot provinces nationwide.

This means that the students here learned the most using the methodology among the provinces covered by the program.

IYF's Nancy Sheppard, the program manager, said the program provides deserving-need schools with cutting-edge learning materials through media rich mobile technology.

To some 7,000 trained teachers, text messaging enabled them to produce 300 new lesson plans, align with national standards for math, science and English, and produce instructional videos for English classes with the help of peers, the representatives said.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Uy Ampatuan commended the program organizers and the active Muslim youth participation, saying the alliance "will help narrow the rate of time as it helps young leaders gain greater sense of awareness and appreciation of their personal gifts and, potentials and limits as well as their leadership values and principles."

"The political leaders in the Autonomy are one in endorsing and supporting the web setting but full confidence in the peaceful energy of its leaders and the mission for the active involvement of the greater mass of the people, the young," Ampatuan said in a statement read by ARMM Information Director Samsen Cinga.

PIL Sheppard said, works "to identify young people's most pressing needs and aspirations, and supports effective programs to be able to address them."

Elsa, a convergence of various organizations, including IYF, is a three-year program that has led to the conversion of 20 new classrooms; upgrading and renovation of 27 classrooms; provision of desks and chairs for 27 classrooms, and 277 medical kits for rural learning and outreaches.

Elsa's other member organizations are Ayala Foundation Inc., Gawad Kalinga Foundation, Jollibee Foundation Inc., the Philippine Business for Social Progress, and the southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology.

The corporate social arms of these firms helped provide the system's hardware for Grades 5 and 6 pupils in 73 schools in Batangas, 13 in Cotabato City; 10 in Quezon City and each in Marikina and Laguna.

The group's alternative learning system (ALS) has also brought 300 out-of-school youth back to school, providing them with integrated technical courses that match skills development activities with industry needs.

Elsa representatives said 1,814 were also provided with study grants, and 1,070 children of school age benefited from the group's supplemental feeding program.

Fifteen year-old Reverina Unap of the Talayan Municipal High School said her story of renewed hope to pursue a college education in medical field with science laboratory facilities but Elsa had provided her school.

Dr. Thomas L. Kist, chief of the US Assistance for International Development Philippine Mission education office, said his office had partly funded the facility out of its aid program for the country, which ranges from $600-800 million a year. Nash E. Mendoza, PDI Mindanao bureau

GOINGS-ON

IPR programs for the youth

MULTI-LEVEL PROPERTY offices of Manila SA have committed to supporting the advocacy programs of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, particularly those involving the youth.

The commitment was made by the Manila SA officials in a recent meeting with IP Philippines Director General Adrian Cristobal Jr.

Nestlé and IP Philippines believe that involving today's youth in the many facets of intellectual property and innovation is of utmost importance to strengthening the IP regime and achieving national development.

Business plan competitions

THE FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY OF R. Reyes Street (formerly Mendiola, Manila has been hosting it over Saturday, SP Lhuillier Cultivation and other universities in the business plan competitions in the country this year.

Topper Bingan, left by Pantel Bautista of the FEU's management and advisory service (MAS) Center, and Dr. Theresa Radonicic Chulo Inc. business plan competition. Rose Hendricks by Stan Chiu Corpus service the BIT-backed Philippine Emerging Startup Center holding collegiate and preuniversity activities. Tina Tiam, and by John Paolo Cleros, and Topper Bingan were finalists in the Milken Institute business plan competition.

At the recently concluded Go Negosyo Entrepreneurial Summit, Gino Sugo Jr. led by Jose Paulo Reis of the financing accounting class of FEU who declared overall winner in the PCU-Ateneo national business plan competition.

Wi-Fi at the Robinsons malls

ROBINSONS LAND Inc. and Robinsons Place Manila are offering "wi-fi" or wireless fidelity internet access for free.

The move that now will be able by using the convenience of checking one's e-mail or surfing the net while dining at 101, Kilay's, Bacolod Chicken House, Chatey's Lechon, Mongolian Barbecue or Coffee Beanery at Robinsons Place Manila. The entire Robinsons Galleria is also a certified Wi-Fi zone.

STI partners with medical center

STI NETWORK (NASDAQ: STEC) hosted the partnership formed by STI and the Davao Doctors Family.

The partnership combines the strengths of STI in IT-based education and the Doctors Medical Center in providing health care. Plastic described the partnership as "the wave of the future", as it integrates IT in healthcare and education.

STI has the largest network of nursing schools in the country.

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BUSINESS

CIIF, Mitsubishi put up oil mill

By Bernad W. Dizenga

MINDANAO-BASED COCONUT OIL MILLER Davao Oil Mill Group and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp., has set up another exportable oil refinery to meet growing demand in Asia.

Mitsubishi chair and president Danilo SiCorporation said the company launched a P1B1-million refinery to answer the need of Southeast Asian food firms for refined and bleached oil as well as specialty fats.

The CIIF/MC companies six coconut oil milling companies that are backed by the environmental icon Jesse or the Coronado Investment Fund.

Mitsubishi now refinery in Davao, Mindanao, which would yield 150 metric tons a day, brought the firm's production capacity to 450 MT of oil daily.

In 1999, CIIF/MC and Mitsubishi built a P300-million coconut oil processing facility.

Formed in 1998, Mitsubishi is engaged in manufacturing, refining and supplying vegetable oils made into edibles or cooking oils, mainly for the export markets.

"We ship our Coco Oils of our output, which is representative of the total export/import mix of the industry to food-related to small companies to production," Coronado explained.

ING to set up OFW fund

By Doris C. Dumlao

DUTCH BANKING GIANT ING WILL set up a $200-million mutual fund for overseas Filipino workers in Europe, a pioneering program recently approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"It will mobilize savings and investments from OFWs other than remittances, so it's an important innovative product that the SB (Monetary Board) has approved," said BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr.

Espenilla said the plan was to incorporate the mutual fund in Ireland and distribute shares in the European Union through offshore branches of Philippine banks.

It aims to tap the growing number of offshore OFWs in Europe in remittances in saving and contribute to Philippine development.

"They can buy shares in the mutual fund, and the mutual fund, in terms of assets, is going to invest a substantial part of them in Philippine businesses, either equities or bonds," Espenilla said.

A mutual fund refers to a pool of funds that are managed by a professional company and invested in various securities.

Espenilla said ING's mutual fund for OFWs would initially focus on investing in fixed income instruments.

"The initial target is to capture a fund of up to $200 million, then if there's a really strong demand, they can create a fund for another $200 million," he noted.

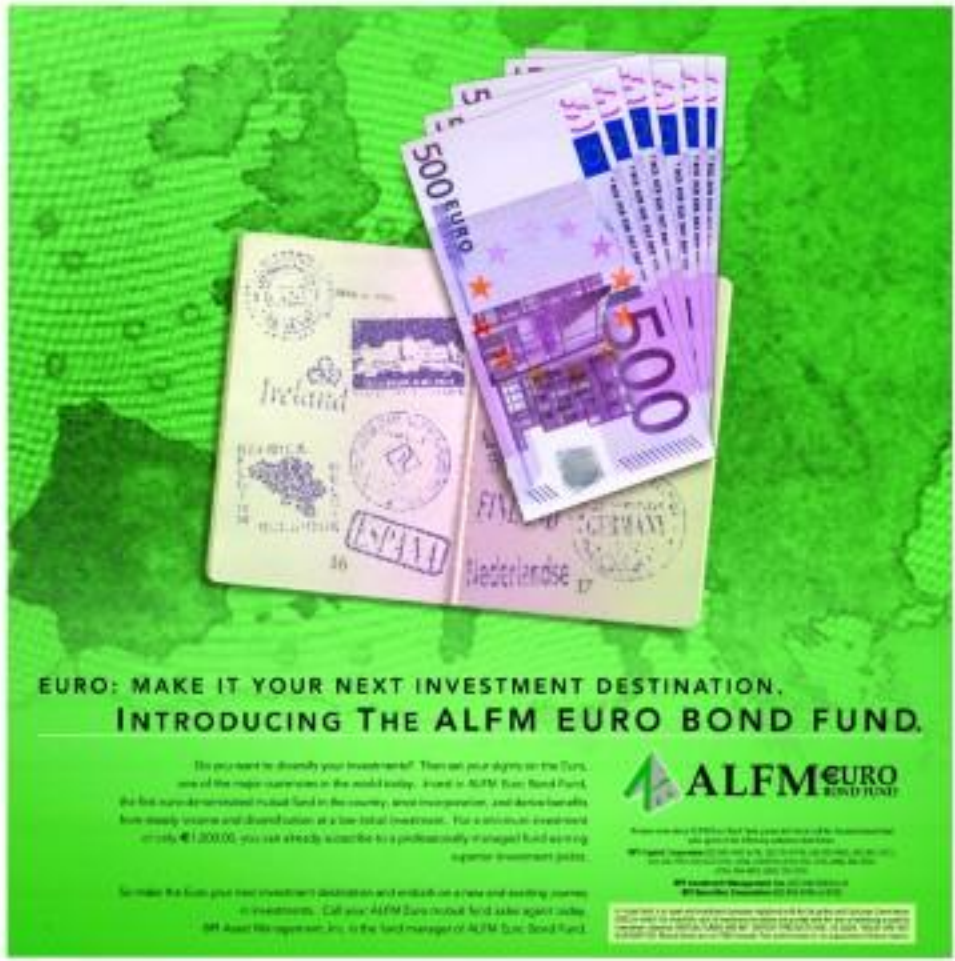
Espenilla, however, said a portion of the fund might have to be invested abroad to accordance with European rules.

At least eight million Filipinos or 10 percent of the population work and work abroad, three million of which are permanent residents.

The five million overseas workers account for as much as 14 percent of the labor force.

While the BSP had given its approval in principle to ING, Espenilla said the bank would have to seek final approval after the foreign bank had set up the fund and shouldn't the proposed local banking partners.

He said the distribution mechanism would have to comply with the BSP's rule on cross-selling of securities.



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OF ONE MIND: Richard Gutierrez and Lily Monteverde listen intently as Ruffa discusses the project.

Stars out to help

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Quinn Pascaso

Ruffa Gutierrez sets up one-day 'tiangge' to raise money for victims of Leyte landslide

"THIS IS A GREAT WAY to raise industry people's awareness of what's happening in Leyte. If Hollywood can do it for victims of Hurricane Katrina, we can do it, too."

Actress-beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez recently discussed with a group of entertainment writers her fund-raising project for survivors of the recent killer mudslide in St. Bernard town, Southern Leyte.

On Feb. 17, thousands in the village of Guinsaugon were buried when tons of mud and rocks streamed down the mountain after weeks of rain. The mudslide swallowed the whole of Guinsaugon, including a schoolhouse filled with children.

Ruffa announced that she has the support of colleagues for "Celebrity Tiangge for Leyte," set on March 18, 1-10 p.m., at Trade Hall A of Makati Market in Taguig City.

According to the actress, each celebrity will pay a minimum of P5,000 for one booth where they can sell their stuff, while shoppers will pay a

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THE DARK
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
ARON FLUX

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CLOSE TO YOU
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THE DARK
TEKKEN BLADE

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CASANOVA
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THE DARK
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UNDERCLASS MAN
YOURS, MINE & OURS
FEARLESS

FINAL DESTINATION 3
FEARLESS
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CLOSE TO YOU

10 BLOCKS
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THE DARK
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CASANOVA
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BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
10 BLOCKS
FINAL DESTINATION 3
FEARLESS
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CLOSE TO YOU
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FEARLESS
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FINAL DESTINATION 3
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
WALK THE LINE
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CLOSE TO YOU
UNDERWORLD
NEW WORLD

FINAL DESTINATION 3
FEARLESS
UNDERCLASS MAN
10 BLOCKS

MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
FEARLESS
10 BLOCKS
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CLOSE TO YOU
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RESERVED
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NEW WORLD
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FIREWALL
CRASH
CLOSE TO YOU
FEARLESS
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2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	5 LAST HOLIDAY
3 UNDERCLASS MAN	6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
4 THE DARK	7 FEARLESS

METRO EAST

1 LAST HOLIDAY	5 FEARLESS
2 CASANOVA	6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
3 DATE MOVIE	7 10 BLOCKS
4 UNDERCLASS MAN	8 THE DARK

NOVALICHES

1 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
2 DATE MOVIE	5 10 BLOCKS
3 CASANOVA	6 UNDERCLASS MAN

CITISQUARE MALABON PIONEER

1 BLOODRAYNE	1 10 BLOCKS
2 DATE MOVIE	2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
3 RESERVE	3 DATE MOVIE
4 RESERVE	4 THE DARK

STA. ROSA

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3	1 FEARLESS
2 INBORDER	2 HAGGAN SI FRANCIS
3 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	3 PINK PANTHER
4 DATE MOVIE	4 NEW WORLD
5 FEARLESS	

LIPA

DASMARINAS

1 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	1 BLOODRAYNE
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	2 DATE MOVIE
3 SYRIANA	3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
4 HAGGAN SI FRANCIS?	4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
5 10 BLOCKS	

ANGELES

IMUS

1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
3 DATE MOVIE	3 DATE MOVIE
4 10 BLOCKS	4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
	5 FEARLESS
	6 FINAL DESTINATION 3

STARMILLS

BACOLOD

1 ARON FLUX	1 FEARLESS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	2 HAGGAN SI FRANCIS?
3 UNDERWORLD 2	3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 FEARLESS	4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
5 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	5 INBORDER
6 HAGGAN SI FRANCIS?	6 NEW WORLD

ILOILO

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre-Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in Town.

Any special discounts to volume purchases

A2-1

DONITA Rose

Stars out to help

From page A2-1

FOR entertainer Ms. "It's up to the artists if they want to pay more than P5,000... or donate everything they earned" or the cause."

Gerald Iconic will be auctioned off on eBay, the online American auction site, said Bello.

Proceeds will be handed over to the Philippine National Red Cross, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Shining Light Friends Circle—which will take charge of the distribution of goods in Leyte.

First plan

Bello said she initially planned a simple garage sale to dispose of her old clothes and shoes. "I had collected five suitcases of clothes which I hoped to sell—when the Leyte tragedy happened," Bello recalled. "I changed my plan in a flash."

She added: "The Boy (Abunda) and Daney Cholewi said they would have a joint booth. The duo will sell some of his flashy blazers and vintage belts; Daney, her soaps and custom-made accessories."

"I said yes [to the project] instantly," said model-TV host Phoemela Baranda. "I plan to sell clothes from some of my modeling jobs."

Arroyo Boss Kristoffer said she will sell her shoes and bags.

Aside from donating her stuff, MTV video jock Dennis Boss will also lend her voice to the event with Bello and her beau Ley Raymond.

Gerald Cruz and Jay R have agreed to perform, said Bello.

Cardshow

Movie producer Lily Monteverde also pledged support.

"The cardshow that Boss Bello will spring forth a lot of similar projects," said Angel Fernandez, talent manager.

Other celebrities who will participate are: Sharon Cuneta, Kris Fernandez, Gary Valenciano, Isaac Leguarda, Bob Ledesma, Richard and Lucy Gomez, German Moreno, Gretchen Barretto, Albert and Lorna Martinez, Geneva Cruz, Jaya, Jamil Ignacio, Vina Morales, Ricky Reyes and Eddie and Annabel Gutierrez.

POETROT

BY BILL AHERO

A LIFTH

BY JED A ABRON

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

FUSAE-MABOY

BY M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

HUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

ATOMIC AND WEBOY

BY LISA CARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PASALUNA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're broad-minded and sojourn. You are the big person. You're also kind and affectionate. You like your independence, yet you value family. You continue to express your mind, your principles and your passion in things. You understand that a simple task has many sides. Increased outlook will help you live a rewarding life.

Birthdate of: Michael Caine, actor; Billy Crystal, actor; Albert Einstein, physicist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Even though you're ready to work today, basically, you want to benefit from others. People are encouraging and generous to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's full moon in your sign encourages you and so are family figures. Just be polite. This amount goes more quickly because issues are well-organized and resolved.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Travel plans, higher education, publishing and the media look fabulous today. Be true to your ideals. Don't be afraid to express yourself. Romance is in the air. Stress might lower a few pleasures, but in the long run, this week will be very swift.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Objective about relationships. Don't take ownership too likely. However, if you remain patient and flexible, you'll receive a gift for your home or a family member.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's full moon is in your sign, and this can be a very emotional time. Be sensitive with others. Some people are not ready to put their feelings forward. Don't be afraid to express yourself — assured of success. Your determination can't be stopped. Don't waste your time with frivolous pursuits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Some thoughtful work is needed today. Don't be afraid to express your feelings, or possibly, speak out about your love. Romance is in the air. Socializing is not coming today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): There might be some tension in the workplace today. It just might be a good day to take a day off. Money is involved, but your emotions are volatile. Don't make any decisions based on emotions. Be patient.

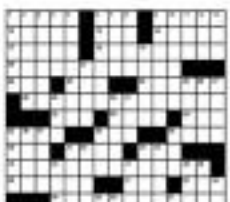
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today's full moon may stir up a lot of emotions. Don't be afraid to express your feelings. Be sensitive to the sense of humor and flaws of others. Be careful with your money. Pursue an interest and have some fun.

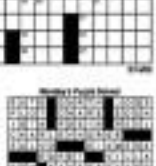
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to make some changes. Don't make any decisions when driving or riding, or working. Unexpected events will occur. Be emotionally and spiritually. You feel happy today!

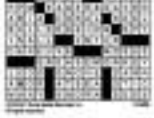
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Pluto is now in your sign. Today's full moon could stress romance, possessions and your self. Remember, this is a good day for business and commerce. (Gorgeous.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today's full moon encourages new ideas. You might feel some spotlight which nothing in your life. Your mood for now is a phase of you. Your good for now with everything, education, publishing and the media might make others envious.

DAILY CROSSWORD







MISS FORTUNE

BY MARK ABRON

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

YUDOK

BY RAFU AND TATUH HUAMBUNG

Why Sexbomb quit 'Bulaga'

From page A1-1

I saw Pia Guanio last Wednesday, March 1, at around 3 p.m. in Gateway. She was with another girl and I was with my 13-year-old son. My son, who really likes her, asked me to take his picture with her using his cellphone. My son and I waited for Pia near Marlo and Spencer. When she saw us, she smiled and went inside the store. Pia followed her. I heard her say to the other girl, "Kumbaga po 'yung dalawang 'yon. Malaki ho ito!" These were her exact words. Seeing the shocked look on my son's face, I told Pia, "Sorry, didn't mean to scare you. Pinapa-sa ka." "It's my surprise, she said, "Yeah, right! Do I need to call security?" I told her it wasn't necessary.

Immediately noted Pia to get her side. She reply: "Firstly, I don't frequent Gateway. I guess someone is just out to ruin my day. Thanks for helping me clear it up."

Guess list

Guess who this young female singer

at first auditioned to sing at one event of an insurance company. She acted like a jobless donna, snubbing everybody. An agent approached her, asking from what company she was. Ms. Chanteuse flared up and said she's the performer! Serves her right. Now maybe she knows she's a bitter pill to swallow.

Clue: She's the product of a TV talent search.

Guess who this male stripper at first been telling people that he started the life of a bo who had a head attack while watching his show abroad. My LB was, isn't him that the singer could not have started the bo, who was named far away from the stage.

Clue: The balladeer is a registered nurse.

One night only

Acclaimed guitarist and vocalist Imee Cantó is performing on March 22 at Mardi's bar (now Orchard Greenbelt 3 Makati with Wency Penales, Ellong Panaca, Mac Heron, Michael Alba and Mark & Friends.

Bruce is famous for playing with the Tunes of Fenny from 1972 to 1976. Call 757-0726 or 727-4721.

Summer courses

Ryan Cayabyab The Music Studio has lined up its summer courses: Kindiganers, for kids 3 to 7; 148 program, a workshop composed of music activities used by 148 in popular singing group of pre-teens in the late 90s), for kids 8 to 13; and Vocal Pop Performance Workshop for those 14 years old and above, and which includes individual voice lessons and exercise drums in pop singing. Call 844-0339, 843-4703 or (0917) 5836464.

(I kind wearing Aisha Sangchi@yahoo.com)

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MOVIE GUIDE
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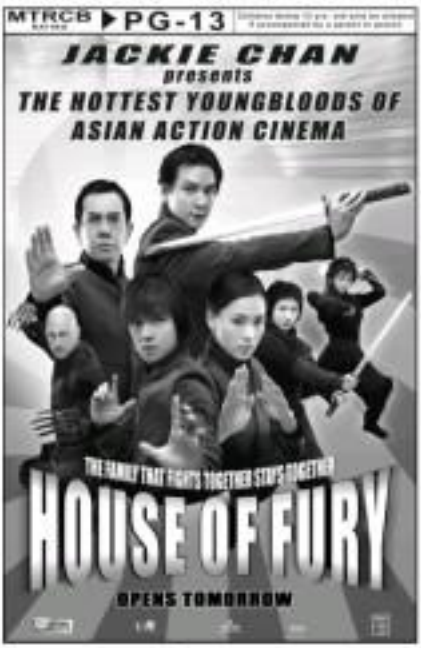

A tribute to Gene Kelly

SEE PICS: [illegible] OUTSTANDING MEN flew from all over the world, the recent Bangkok International Film Festival honored some sense of charm with special tribute medals and compassion. For were your delighted with the tribute to our own film "Tanee/Ineh."

As a child, we had the best time at the movies when our mother took us to Cine Ecodis to watch musical films in the two theaters there. That's where we fell in love with the films of Gene Kelly in artful, dances and dizzying rhythm.

We still recall our standing ovation from Kelly's best films like "Singin' in the Rain" and "An American in Paris," as though we had just watched them last week. That's how indelibly beautiful, riveting and entertaining his best movies were.

Kelly's special standout at the Bangkok film fest received no serious public attention in his exceptional film careers. We urge younger viewers to get hold of tapes or discs of vintage Gene Kelly films, so they can match their movie love with the still existing output of a genuine movie master.

"Singin' in the Rain," story Kelly as a screen idol and Debbie Reynolds is his young love interest. The film humorously recounts the awkward transition from silent films to sound.

Similarly memorable is the seductive role of the gangster moll played by the statuesque Cyd Charisse.

"An American in Paris" tells the story of an American (Kelly) who falls in love with a French girl (Leslie Caron). Most notable is the film's climax, a 17-minute ballet choreographed by Kelly and to the music of George Gershwin. The inspiration for the ballet was the canvases of the great impressionist painters, like Toulouse-Lautrec and Renoir.

Kelly achieved his first success as "Harry the Hoofer" in "The Time of Your Life" on Broadway.

He also scored big in the title role in "Pal Joey."

Pitch for Hot Shot. "Dr. Ho and My Girl," Kelly established himself as a strong and versatile singing and dancing movie star.

In "Cover Girl," his "dizzy Eye" number will knock today as a major step to change the look of dance on film.

In "On the Town," Kelly took the musical out of the studio onto the streets of New York.

His inventive use of dance, music and choreography continued through such films as "Brigadoon," "Summer Stock" and "Invitation to the Dance."

We hope that all Brocklet or Bender in Manilaites up a Gene Kelly retrospective this year. We assure viewers who haven't yet enjoyed Kelly's films that they'll be in for a great, exciting and thrilling at the movies.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Feedback

From Neal R. Morrell: "I think it would be a good idea if advertisers would declare a week of nostalgia during which they would air radio/TV commercials produced from the '50s to the '80s.

"It would be exciting to savor again items as re-stirs like 'Iron Whipped flour commercials' of Bert Marcelo, the Apo Riding Society, Nestog Pienza, Flash Elwood and Slim J. Pauso in the 'Sosog Flaxtoog Mom' spot, etc. And, not to be forgotten, the Rollins Hills spot (I think it's the oldest TV commercial)."

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THE DARK	UNDERCLASSMAN	16 BLOCKS	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE LAST HOLIDAY	YOURS, MINE & OURS	DATE MOVIE	16 BLOCKS
THE FEARLESS	CASANOVA	FINAL DESTINATION 3	GREY'S ANATOMY GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA

MALL CINEMAS

1	16 BLOCKS	2	THE FEARLESS	3	DATE MOVIE
4	TIGER BLADE	5	THE DARK		

For online inquiries, please call Ticketnet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

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HERMAN HERMITS - PETER NOONE CONCERT — MARCH 17, FRIDAY, 8 p.m.

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IN THEATERS TOMORROW

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AT THE CINEMAS

G1	1 DATE MOVIE	2 16 BLOCKS	3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 THE DARK			
G4	1 CASANOVA	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS	3? 16 BLOCKS				
	4 CAPOTE	5 FEARLESS	6 DATE MOVIE	7 LAST HOLIDAY			
GB1	1 DATE MOVIE	2 CASANOVA					
GB3	1? DATE MOVIE	2? 16 BLOCKS					
	3 LAST HOLIDAY	4 YOURS, MINE & OURS	5 CASANOVA				
ATC	1? 16 BLOCKS	2 CASANOVA					
	3 DATE MOVIE	4 LAST HOLIDAY	5 YOURS, MINE & OURS				
ACC	1 16 BLOCKS	2 DATE MOVIE	3 YOURS, MINE & OURS	4 ST. ANGE			
M2	1 16 BLOCKS	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS					
	3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 CASANOVA	5 DATE MOVIE				

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA

BPI Installment Madness
March 10-31, 2006

TOWN

Annie's Emporium Exhibit
March 12 to 31, 2006

ASALA CENTER CEBU

UDC College of Architecture & Fine Arts' Annual Exhibit
March 10, 2006

MARKET! MARKET!

Women's Today Summer Picks Event
March 16, 2006

Ayala Greenbelt's Chocolate Festival
February 13 to March 19, 2006

Repertory Philippines presents THE URBAN
at RCP's Onstage Theater - March 24, 25, 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
For inquiries, pls. call 897-0160

Ayala Museum

CHINA-ASEAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBIT
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Buy 2 movie tickets to Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, and Greenbelt 5 Cinema to get 1 raffle coupon. Fill up, and drop in drop boxes in the ticket booths.

Deadline of all raffle entries is on May 15, 2006.
Drawing of winner is on May 20, 2006.
Winners will be notified by registered mail and phone call.

BPI Express Credit

Why Sexbomb quit 'Bulaga'

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE EXODUS OF Sexbomb's bouncing "Eat Bulaga!"?

An insider told me that it could be because of Jilli's new members Dagoc, said to be the "nastier pet" of hosts Joey de Leon and Vic Sotto.

The cute sexually-ambi fun of Dagoc is the show until the cries—and the audience lays up Dagoc's "crybaby" antics. In short, she has become the center of attention.

I visited Sexbomb's manager Joy Cancio for the real score but she didn't reply.

Dagoc reportedly doesn't want Joy to manage her, and would rather be handled by TAPE, the show's producer.

Maybe Joy feels "U.B." is playing favorites, so she pulled out her group. Or is there a deeper reason than that?

Without "Eat Bulaga!" there would be no Sexbomb to begin with. How would a girl named Dagoc make things turn over? The crybaby seems to have the last laugh. But maybe that is a blessing in disguise for the girls. Now the Sexbomb can label doubles bonuses.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Daddy Monsour

Got this note from my "bro" Monsour del Rosario: "My son Matthew Lorenzo Z. del Rosario was born March 7, Monday at 9:38 a.m. He is 49 cms. Weight: about 6.5 lbs. 2.95 kilos. He's got smooths on and is kicking already. He is 19 inches long with a big A-A! I can hit you!! Cool!"

Congrats Mon! You've been such a wonderful mentor to so many kids in your Ambassador school. Now you've got your reward jackhard!

Pia's 'stalker'

There's this e-mail circulating from sweng.pantin@gmail.com which goes "Mag-ingat kay Pia Guanzon." Here are portions of it:

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

CASANOVA

YOUNG, WILD AND GUNS

10 BLOCKS

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LIFESTYLE

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Running to bring light to those without sight

By Jason Dagdag
Correspondent

"I HAVE LOST MY SIGHT but I have not lost my vision," said Henry Wanyoike, goodwill ambassador of the "Seeing is Believing" campaign, the driving force behind Standard Chartered's The Greatest Race on Earth (TRACK) series.

The Kenya, who is recognized as the world's fastest blind marathon runner, is leading the campaign to educate Filipinos in the world on a marathon relay that started on Kenya, went on to Singapore and Shanghai and ended in Hongkong.

In Hong Kong, Wanyoike said creating awareness about the cause of blindness can create important changes and setting new running records. With four world records and three gold Paralympic medals under his belt, he was certainly taking very seriously his mission as a motivational speaker.

According to the Standard Chartered website, there are over 45 million blind people across the globe, majority of them living in the developing world. Eight percent of these people with treatable blindness do not have access to basic healthcare treatment.

In its first year in 2005, "Seeing is Believing" raised enough money to restore the sight of 56,000 people in some the World's Eight Dry which falls on Oct. 9. By running up with fight lovers from national and beyond 2005, donated Chartered is working to raise enough funds for one million sight restorations by year's end.

In the Philippines, Binibining for the Blind Inc. (BBI) is the main beneficiary of this campaign. BBI is the only nongovernment organization that provides textbooks in Braille and distributes them for free among 200 accredited public schools that provide Christ-kept blind students. It also conducts medical missions around the country for cataract removal.

Will to fight

"Yesterday I met a guy from New York and he said when he's training, he places my picture on his wrist," said Wanyoike. "When he's tired and he sees my picture, he gets motivated. He's now here with us to do the same for."

The 32-year-old runner broke up 11 years ago to discover that he had gone blind. After a stroke in his sleep. Wanyoike had wanted to commit suicide, but his stay at a rehabilitation center in Kenya's largest hospital changed his perspective. At the center, he learned to read Braille and soon assumed on his own. He realized there were bigger things he could do, and that's value he started running again.

ABOUND 40,000 runners participated in the 5K race often to help alleviate the issue of blindness across the globe.

WITH a personal best of one hour and 18 minutes, Henry's all-smiles before the 21k race.

Henry Wanyoike, the world's fastest blind marathon runner, has not lost his heart and his vision

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MAIN gal of The Met, Ros Zobel Jr. with her very own man, Joel Urdaneta

FATHOMS of the arts: Carmen and Jal Disini with Cristina Bolivar

DUB FILIPINOS Ethel Trinidad (center) with Valentina magnate Louie Abrera and Guatemala honorary consul Mollie Romero A.

Shining moment at The Met

CORE Abrina and The Met's dedicated executive director Ina Manalo

WOMEN of culture: hardworking ladies Marivic Madrigal Vasquez, mixologo Bambi Harper and intelligent LuiAbrogar

BEAUTIES at The Met: Otto Campos and HSBC's Luisa Santana

HOST with the most: Ros Ayo-Escudero and popular architect Bobby Mañosa

DISCUSSING history and art: architect Rainer Zamboni, world-class costumier Pattu Tavera and grand gourmand Pacqui Enrile

ARTISTIC personalities: Jaime Laya, Tessie Ejarque and husband Arturo Luz

Wow! GOLD IS BEING EMBODIED. It's no wonder that the theme was gold during the launching "Magi at The Met," which chronicled The Met's recognition of everything that is gold in the Philippines, palanggas.

The big come-on of this glitzy event was the exhibition of the rare gold collection of the Central Bank, which no one had ever seen before, except for the people handling it, namely The extensive collection consisted of antique 18-karat-gold pieces from the Spanish colonial period.

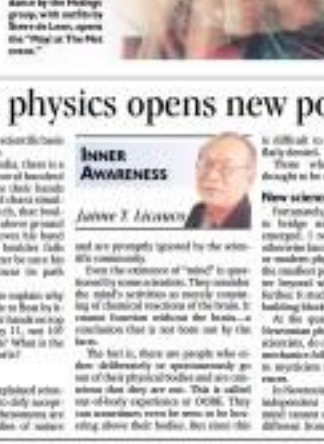
The exhibition is part of a series of must-go programs "geared toward promoting public consciousness of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas [role] in[vision, which] were organized to explore the potential of the gold industry in the country," as explained to me by dedicated workhands and hero penny Ina Manalo, no less.

Once off the beautiful people And bronzed through this one-of-a-kind exhibit, a fabulous interpretation of the goddess era in Philippine history opened the excellent Filipino-inspired "degustation" from the Gourmand himself, multi-hyped Claudio Tayag. The menu was capped with the ravishment of colorful orchestra, which thrilled both foreigners and local guests, palanggas.

Our pals Ros Zobel Jr., who has been in and out of the country recently, and Ina Manalo presented the Met's economic development program which "addresses the promotion of creative industries." They recognized the support of organizations and organizations which have and are supporting The Met's programs such as PEC, BSMC, Unilab and The Women's Business Council.

Needless to say, a high-cultural event like this brought out our town's crème-coulé hombre personalities from the business, arts and culture scenes. OK, here we go—Admiz Lopa, Federico Alonso, architect Manny Ribhara and wife, adorable top photographer Denise Weldon, Rita Lobenzo, architect Rainier Zamagong, Opal Bermanes and Lena Abrina, Brandt Pollmann Ramon Ty and beautiful wife Jacky, BSMC's ravishing mom Vanessa Hunsberg and the bank's top secret weapon Luisa Santana, model-murder and renowned gourmands Pacqui and Susie Ortigas; popular couple Louie and Mollie Romero Aldana, who was also glam as usual; Ad and Gonzo Dilocog and Alfonso Guevara.

Here's more...palanggas: gorgeous Linda Zobel; ballet star Stella Zobel Elizalde; stylish Mercedes Mendiburo; Met's Miss Bonnemere; one of the hardworking organizers of the affair, Karen Santos; Otto Campos; curvy gals Denise Lichauco and Ching Sabio; Subas Pulamte; and Lilian Limcangco. Now, here's that for name-dropping, huh!



INTERPRETATIVE dance by the Hadrigs group, with outfits by Steve de Leon, opens the "Magi at The Met" event."

Good pass

Hey palanggas, the next time you take the world-renowned Singapore Airlines, don't throw away your boarding pass. That piece of paper can get you incredible, awesome goodies within seven days of your arrival in Manila.

This was announced over lunch at the chi-chi Think of the elegant Mandarin Oriental where our sponsor/partner dishes out eye-catching dynamite. Present were Noni Winto Antonio, Bill Veen (who promises and writes its chief Tony Laguio, Mabini Boy, Bobby Icasiano Jr., Jaguar's Nel also some Wellington's fanning; Siemens Group's Vic Kalaw.

The 3M boarding pass promo gives discounts from 15-88 persons. Mandarin's Charisse Chiotillon, deputy of PR ladies, told us that as partner hotel Mandarin Oriental our could enjoy the super exhibition preparation And top gourmands had been creating for, at the no-nonsense depredation the rate of The Thrift at 30-percent off, plus all the passport ing processed at the ultra-luxurious The Oriental Spa at a 20-percent discount on individual treatments.

Princess that boarding pass at the hotel's front desk and you get a 10-percent discount on room (published rates) during weekdays and till present call on weekends, plus discounts at the Business Center and even transportation and laundry services. There's more. Stay two nights and you get the third night for free.

Chilling out in Boracay

It's still a cool morning breeze that one finds in the island air of Boracay, palanggas. So there resting. Boracay at that time of the year, there are now so many resorts to choose from, among them the popular Pearl of the Pacific, the super top-of-the-line Ivana Resort, and, everyone's all-time favorite, the Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Convention Center. Info: 5230707 to 08.

This last single A-rated hotel along the white beach is also the resort with the widest beach front and the most number of rooms, thanks to Boracay's hottest Regency chief and president, the by-fluent Henry Chuanzon, no less, and the enthusiastic Col. Jude Gonzales.

Right upon the holidays when the chi-chi pack that crowded there in that time of year but gone back to the city's asphalt jungle, another batch of personalities flow in to chill out, palanggas, enjoying the glorious outdoor setting. Boracay Regency Front Office agent Lloyd Francisco with Sgt. Bert Bense and his friends; Honorary Consul General of the Philippines in Bari, Ukraine, Valeriy Kravchuk; and Boracay Regency Front Office agent Sidonie Bugaoisan.

Check the place out, palanggas.

SINGAPORE Airlines' marketing communications manager, sultry beauty Rina Ilo

BEAUTY queen Phoebe Fleirmoda loves yummy cuisines.

BOracay club president Henry Chuanzon was one of the first to explore Boracay's potential and is now a moving force in the island's tourism industry.

REGENCY'S assistant FO manager Gloria Salazar and front office agent Dianna Pabalayan welcome actor Ian Veneracion.

FORMER basketball superstar Alvin Co and attractive wife Maureen usually vay at Boracay Regency when vacationing on the island paradise.

FEARLESS kid broadcaster Korina Sanchez and her Chinkee Chuanzon, daughter of Boracay's top guy Henry Chuanzon

Quantum physics opens new possibilities

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime I. Licauco

THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF LOOKING at things. One is represented by the scientific point of view, which says "only matter exists," and the other is represented by religion, which says "only spirit matters."

The tremendous success of science in classifying and explaining the world we live in has led modern man into believing that only science can be relied upon to give us correct and valid answers to life's problems. Only knowledge or conclusion derived from the application of the scientific method is recognized.

That's why things that cannot be explained scientifically are often regarded as either fraudulent or imaginary. This fixation has resulted in the exclusion of all knowledge and phenomena that cannot be explained scientifically.

Thus, the existence of ghosts or spirits, elemental creatures, extra sensory perception, the astral body, psychic surgery, angels, extraterrestrials, etc. is being denied. There is no scientific basis as proof of their existence.

But consider this: in India, there is a big boulder weighing seven of hundred tons. If 21 persons place their hands on top of the boulder and chant simultaneously at a certain pitch, that boulder will take on a unusual twirl effect and by itself. If anyone removes his hand or stops chanting, the boulder falls with a big thud. One learner he uses his foot to not anywhere near its path when it lands!

No one has been able to explain why or how that boulder is able to float in a air? If 21 people place their hands on top of it while chanting: Why 11, not 10? Why that particular pitch? What is the effect of 21 hands on top of it?

Anomalies

Because it cannot be explained scientifically, and even sense to defy accepted scientific laws, such phenomena are considered mere anomalies of nature and are promptly ignored by the scientific community.

Even the existence of "mind" is questioned by some scientists. They consider mind only a by-product or merely a meeting of chemical reactions of the brain. It cannot function without the brain...a conclusion that is not born out by the facts.

The fact is, there are people who ordain deliberately or spontaneously go out of their physical bodies and experience things that they are not. This is called out-of-body experience or OOBE. They can sometimes even be seen as to be hovering above their bodies. But since this is difficult to prove scientifically, it is flatly denied.

Those who experience this are thought to be merely hallucinating.

New science

Fortunately, a new science that combines findings science and religion has emerged. I refer to quantum physics, otherwise known as quantum mechanics or modern physics. This science wonders the smallest particle or element of matter beyond which one cannot go any further. It studies the most fundamental building blocks of matter.

At the quantum level, the laws of Newtonian physics, long held sacred by scientists, do not apply at all. Quantum mechanics follows principles more akin to mysticism than to the physical sciences.

In Newtonian physics, the observer is independent of the thing observed; until cause affect matter, a particle is different from a wave, the same must provide the effect.

In modern quantum physics, the observed object is not independent of the observer, a particle can appear as a wave depending on the person observing it...mind can affect matter and an effect can occur simultaneously with its cause.

Nothing exists apart from the one observing it in quantum physics. In other words, this world is largely our own mental creation.

Isn't this what the Buddhist mystics have been saying all along? For over 2,500 years, they have been telling us that matter is "maya" or an illusion but Newtonian physicists merely laughed at the idea.

Now scientists may have to revise their theories regarding the nature of physical reality. Perhaps in the future, quantum physics will be able to explain how those heavy boulder in India can float unaided, in seeming defiance of the laws of gravity.

The ultimate basketball shoes

CONVERSE Wade Shoes

Converse marks its 20th anniversary with a collection that celebrates its shared heritage with the sport

By Cheryl Tiu
Contributor

BEST KNOWN FOR ITS CANVAS Chuck Taylor All-Star, Converse marks its 20th anniversary this year with reminiscences of both the All-Star and its other hot model, the Weapon.

Introduced in 1917, All-Star gained further popularity in 1918 with the endorsement of basketball player Chuck "Chuck" Taylor, who worked as a salesman-ambassador for the company. Under improvements Converse made then, in 1923, his name began appearing on the ankle patch. Thereafter, the shoe became known as Chucks, and it has become the most successful shoe in history, having sold over 800 million pairs worldwide.

In 1986, Converse introduced the Weapon, which pioneered the love of basketball legends Larry Bird and Magic Johnson and all those part of the celebrated '80s basketball showtimes.

For its 2006 Spring-Summer collection Converse offers the Weapon in two limited edition models, individually numbered from one to 500, with a 20th anniversary sock liner. Meanwhile, bright colors and stylish vintage models distinguish the signature Chuck Taylor All-Star line.

Converse's most recent blockbuster is the Chuck Taylor All-Star, which maintains the essence and visible look of the original, but does away with the laces.

Late Chairman, Kris Aquino reportedly ordered 14 pairs over the Internet as a present to her fiancé, Converse endorser Joanna Ampil.

Also gaining a large following is the One Star, designed especially for the "in-the-know" athlete. The shoe was a favorite of the late Virginia Dominican Kim I. Gillespie as well as backstreet boy scion Jack Purcell.

Pro basketball star Dwyane Wade has also worked closely with the Converse Design Team to create the perfect shoe for his quick and exciting play style. Thus, the Converse Wade Signature Basketball shoes are manufactured.

CONVERSE Weapon shoes

CONVERSE All-Star High-Cut Lace in pinstripes

Converse is releasing the North Carolina Pro Leather Michael Jordan's shoe-of-choice dating his entire player years. The Converse Pro Leather was the hottest shoe of the late '70s and early '80s, made famous by the great Julius "The Doctor" Erving.

Converse's 2006 Spring-Summer collection caters to diehard fans with basketball history, making it a brand of unique heritage.

E-mail the author at chiu_dominique@yahoo.com

Running to bring . . .

From page B1

Running came to Wanjiku early. In a country saddled with slow economic growth and high unemployment, a majority of Kenyans built to sports, particularly middle-distance and long-distance athletics by which Kenya is known, in hours dedicated worth and universal pride.

"I grew up admiring great Kenyans who were being honored with flowers or gold medals around their necks," said Wanjiku. "I wished I could be like them, celebrated after putting Kenya on the world map."

After losing his sight, Wanjiku found himself facing a huge challenge. It was tough enough to run in a nation brimming with talents, but to run without sight? "In countries people that as a visually impaired person I could still run and train. I needed their support was very difficult," he said.

But he faced the challenge by covering the length of Kenya's rough roads—running, falling, having injuries, getting a good guide—by trial and by him.

To convince corporations to sponsor his training gear and expenses, he showed them total commitment and courage. Soon, the support—and the awards—began pouring in.

Wanjiku won a gold medal in the 5,000-meter run at the 2000 Sydney Paralympics, and again at the 2004 Athens games, where he set a world record. Last year, he was voted Kenya's Sportsman of the Year, topping other Kenyan greats. He was also nominated for a Laureus, the world's biggest sports award.

"I am now who I wanted to be when I was young," he said. "I've resolved the same treatment given to me for athletes: I looked up to when I was young."

Family time

When he is not running, Wanjiku spends time with his wife and three 2-year-old sets. He said he wanted a family of champions, though he'd definitely let his child do whatever he wants to do in the future.

Though he looks forward to doing the Paralympics in Beijing and London, this early Kenyanlet is already giving back to children all over the world via his role as a motivational speaker and ambassador for Seeing is Believing. He has been to the UK, Austria, Germany, US, India, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan, among other places, to encourage young people to stay fit and achieve their goals in their lifetimes. And he encourages everybody to join in the campaign, visually impaired or not.

"We need support and open minded, not sympathy," he stressed. "This is one way of showing the world that we are not here for people to do things for us. We can also do things like any other person can, as long as we are given the opportunity."

Blindness, said Wanjiku, should be no hindrance. With acceptance, you won't have time for self-pity or bothering about how others are reacting to you.

"Sometimes even I forget that I'm blind," he said. "I see it to more, just no more."

Visit www.seeingisbelieved.com

THE TARGET of the Greatest Race on Earth, the first marathon across African soil by Asian runners, is to raise funds for the campaign to reduce blindness in the world.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Open-close buttocks bridge

THIS EXERCISE TIGHTENS and tones the buttocks, inner thighs and hamstrings (back of the thighs) as well as challenges the mobility of the torso muscles, abdominals and lower back.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down with your knees bent, feet together, heels raised and arms beside your hips with palms down.

2. Press down with the balls of your feet and contract your buttocks as you raise your pelvis off the floor.

3. While keeping your heels and pelvis raised off the floor, open your knees outward then draw your knees together using your inner thighs. Continue opening and closing your knees for the desired number of repetitions.

4. Lower your pelvis back down to the mat.

Performance tips:

1. Do all movements slow and controlled.

2. Keep upper back and shoulders on the floor. Raise only the pelvis and lower back.

3. Do not allow your knees back to sag toward the floor. Keep a straight back (with a natural curve in the lower back).

4. Squeeze and contract buttocks and inner thighs when you bring your knees together.

Repetitions:

Do 10 repetitions (one repetition equals opening and closing the knees).

Exercise may help reduce breast cancer risk

WELL AND GOOD

Tinai Ibarra

Studies in five countries indicate that women who sat for long periods at home or in the office on a daily basis had a higher risk

EVIDENCE IS GROWING THAT EXERCISE may be an important weapon in the fight against breast cancer. This is good to know because the Department of Health says the disease is the leading cancer among Filipino females.

Studies conducted in five countries and three continents indicate that the higher the level of daily physical activity, the lower the risk of breast cancer. Women with the highest risk were those who sat for long periods at home or in the office on a daily basis.

The "physical activity" measured included walking, lifting, climbing stairs, standing, moving from site to site and manual work (housework and gardening), as well as moderate or vigorous "formal" exercise and occupational sports like aerobics, weight lifting, tennis, swimming, running and cycling.

A 14-year Seoul study found that those who exercised four hours a week had a 17 percent lower risk than sedentary women. The risk was lowest in non-women, women under the age of 45 and women who continued to exercise regularly for three to four years.

However, even women in their 70s can reduce their risk compared to sedentary women of the same age if they exercise several times a week, according to an 11-year study by the Mayo Clinic.

Better than none

It seems that a little exercise is better than none. A 2005 Epidemiology of Southern California study compared lifestyle habits of women who had breast cancer and women who did not. Women who exercised at least 1.3 hours a week since the age of 18 had a 20-percent lower risk.

But the study found that exercise did not reduce the risk for women with a family history of breast cancer (first degree family member—mother, sister, daughter).

Scientists are not sure exactly how exercise reduces the risk of breast cancer but the main theory has to do with estrogen. Since reproductive cancers are estrogen-related, exercise may be protective because it reduces lifetime exposure to estrogen by lowering body fat levels (the more fat you have, the higher your estrogen level) and inducing estrogen levels circulating in the blood.

The body fat in postmenopausal women converts male hormones called androgens (produced by a woman's adrenal glands) into estrone, a particularly potent form of estrogen, says Dr. Christine Wells, who has reviewed more than 170 years of studies on breast cancer and exercise. She says there is substantial evidence that elevated estrone levels are associated with an increase in breast cancer in postmenopausal women.

A Harvard School of Public Health study showed that if a woman was more than 44 pounds overweight, her risk of developing fibrocystic breast disease had double the risk of breast cancer compared to a woman of normal weight. There was a 60-percent risk if she was 22- to 44-pounds overweight and a 20-percent risk with 5- 21 pounds of excess weight.

Another study done at the Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Florida calculated the risk of breast cancer in women who were overweight at the age of 30. They found that being 10 pounds overweight had a 10-percent risk, 15-pounds overweight a 37-percent risk and 20-pounds overweight a 32-percent risk compared to normal weight.

The National Cancer Institute studied 3,000 women in the US of white descent and discovered that the women who were most overweight in their 40s and 50s had double the risk of breast cancers. The women who were over 30 pounds old and had gained 15 pounds since they were 40 had triple the risk compared to women whose weight had stayed the same.

The good news is women who used to be overweight when they were young but lose weight by their fourth and fifth decade did not increase their risk of breast cancer.

Other studies indicated that there was a greater risk for women who became overweight as an adult but not for women who were overweight since childhood. Also, fat in the waist area increases risk more than the same amount of fat in the hips and thighs.

Stronger immune system

The second theory is exercise enhances a woman's immune system to fight off effectively cancer cells before they can cause real damage.

Finally, women who exercise tend to have healthier lifestyle habits (good nutrition, moderate alcohol, no smoking, enough sleep) than women who are sedentary. This might make all the difference.

Whatever theory proves to be true (or maybe all three are right), the important thing is that all women should become more physically active to help lower their risk of breast cancer.

Even women with breast cancer can benefit from exercise. A 2005 study, the first of its kind, found that exercise of three to five hours a week, while not an iron-clad guarantee of survival, increased the odds of surviving the disease. Even one hour of exercise a week helped. It was the women with estrogen-sensitive breast cancer who benefited the most, which seems to strengthen the theory of the estrogen connection.

Visit www.wellandgood.com

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JUST LIKE THE HEART, LIVER or kidney, the skin is an organ. It is, in fact, considered the largest of all organs.

What it does

The skin has many life-sustaining functions. It regulates body temperature, shields the body from the elements, and guards against bacteria, viruses.

But did you know that it is the body's mirror? It reflects a person's state of health. If you are exhausted, stressed, poorly nourished, it will show on your skin.

In the beginning

When we are born, our skins are perfect. But the ravages of time, neglect or abuse contribute to the imperfect state of our skin today.

Skin can be damaged by:

- Exposure to the sun without protection
- Smoking
- Drinking
- Undernourished diet, eating less-than-ideal meals
- Neglect, lack of a daily skin regimen

Skin issues

Know what your skin type is. This is determined by the amount of sebum in your skin (yes, i.e. a type of oil/sebum) your skin has, i.e. a type of sebum that our body has less sebum/oil than a hormone-deficient individual.

Remember, the darker your skin, the more melanin, therefore the more protection you have against the sun. So, a round of swimming in Hawaii protects—you need more sun protection than most. Stay away from the sun. If you cannot, wear adequate protection on face, neck, and shoulders—cover your every day

Inside Out

Gay Quirino

SPF 30, if possible).

Skin tone may be sallower white, golden olive to ebony black, or any shade in between.

White skin (essentially of Caucasian) is more susceptible to sun damage and photo-aging. This skin type wears easily and may require cosmetic procedures.

Brown skin tends to be oilier by nature and less susceptible to wrinkles. Although it is susceptible to inflammation. It tends to be elastic and does over the years.

Light brown/yellow skin (Asian/Mediterranean) is more resistant to sun damage than white skin; thin skin and dry pores. Asian skin could appear sallow and pale and has a tendency to sun-freckles.

Skin type

Dry skin: Tight, dull feeling to the skin. So, for a gentle cleanser, use a foaming cleanser. Just feel and see how it feels on after cleanser oil. A night, use olive oil or coconut oil (if you do not have oily skin) as moisturizer. Choose oil-based cosmetics.

Oily skin: This is a gift. Even if you have a shiny nose, it's okay. Better to control the oil than make it worse. Don't use detergent or detergent-based soaps on your face. Avoid shiny soaps. Don't apply oil-based cosmetics on your face. Use water-based cosmetics.

Combination: Finally, the T-zone is oily and the rest, dry. When buying cosmetics, ask for normal/combination skin. Better to use a water-based foundation. Apply moisturizer only in areas where they are needed and skip the oily part.

My favorite regimen

For oily skin:

Egg-white/Egg White Mask

Separate egg whites from yolk. Beat egg whites until slightly frothy. Apply to face. Allow to dry. Rinse.

Use only cleanser with oil and gives a bit.

Oatmeal Jelly

3 tbsp rice oatmeal

2 tbsp cold water

Mix into a paste. Apply on face. Rinse when it starts to dry and begins tighten. Repeat once a week.

For dry combination skin:

Cucumber Juice

Drink one glass of cucumber juice. Put on your face to cleanse up and open your pores for 1 minute. Rest before bedtime.

Cucumber Cool

Blender 1 tbs unsalted, raw grapes in one glass of coconut water. Add a squeeze of lemon and 1 tsp of honey. Drink up. The Vitamin C rich coconut drink is great for the skin.

Your affirmation: "I am in the sun days with hope each day."

Love and light!

Join the Beauty of Life Health and Beauty Expo, March 29-30, SM Megamall/Bldg. Star Cinema, SM Mega Fair.

Attend a wellness day with Gay Q., 2-7 p.m., March 23.

Convention on men's health set

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR the Study of the Aging Male Foundation Inc. (Philsaam) will hold its 5th annual convention on March 23 at the Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila.

The theme of the convention is Men's Health: From Philadelphia to Pinoy. Lectures include current hot aging males with hot cases of hypogonadism (underpower), metabolic syndrome, diabetes mellitus, sexual wellness, osteoporosis and musculoskeletal disorders. A lay forum follows at the Mezzanine Hall, 5th Hospital on March 23. Interested participants are required to register on or before March 15. Registration is free.

Call 735.1875 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday only), 725.2131 and 7250.8131 local 2042.